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The Duke of Marlborough
K.G.

J. M.D.
1 March
1869.

OXFORDSHIRE ANNALS.

BY

JOHN MARRIOTT DAVENPORT F.S.A.

CLERK OF THE PEACE

OF THE

COUNTY OF OXFORD.

1869.

TO

HIS GRACE

JOHN WINSTON DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH

K. G.

LORD LIEUTENANT AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM

OF THE

COUNTY OF OXFORD,

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED, AS A SMALL

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT, BY

HIS GRACE'S VERY OBEDIENT, HUMBLE SERVANT

THE COMPILER.

THE kindness and consideration with which the little Book "LORDS LIEUTENANT AND HIGH SHERIFFS OF OXFORDSHIRE" was received, have induced its Compiler to extend the catena of OXFORDSHIRE ANNALS; and he now therefore presents the following links;—with the further object of connecting the present with the past.

Quicquid sub terrâ est, in apricum proferet ætas;

Defodiet condetque nitentia. Hor. 1 Ep. 6, 24.

Oxford
March 1869.

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OXFORDSHIRE ANNALS.

OXFORDSHIRE ANNALS.

SOVEREIGNS AND PRINCES

CONNECTED, BY BIRTH OR RESIDENCE, WITH THE

COUNTY OF OXFORD.

ENGLAND UNDER THE ROMANS.

THE castellated Palace of the Barons of Saint Walery, at BECKLEY, is said to have been the residence of RICHARD, King of the Romans. The Roman Road from Alchester to Wallingford, passed through Beckley. Its Manor was subsequently part of the private property of King Alfred.

It may be interesting to mention that JULIUS CÆSAR, (the famous Roman General, and subsequently Emperor of Rome), crossed the River, *Tamise*, near Wallingford, and passed through Oxford, on his route to a Battle fought at Cirencester.

ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.

DORCHESTER had very early associations with Royalty. Its name appears to have been derived from Ὑδωρ (Water,—corrupted by the Britons into DOR), and CASTRUM, the Roman word for City. In the sixth Century King KYNEGILS was baptized at Dorchester, OSWALD, King of the Northumbrians, being His Godfather. And in 636 CWICHELM (Son of King

Kynegils

Kynegils), was baptized at Dorchester. From this Prince, the Village of CUXHAM derived its name. In 639 King CUTHRED was baptized at Dorchester. These Baptisms took place in the River, Baptistries or Fonts not having been yet introduced.

ST. EDWOLD (younger Brother to ST. EDMUND, King of the East Angles), declined the Crown which descended to Him of right, upon St. Edmund's death ; and He retired to Dorchester, and to a Monastery there called Corn House, where He died and was buried in the year 871.

ETHELRED THE FIRST held a Witenagemote at Woodstock in the year 866.

At an early part of the Anglo-Saxon period (after the century and a half's contest between the Angles, Jutes, and Saxons with the ancient Britons), several of the Kings of MERCIA, (that one of the Seven States, or Heptarchy, which included the County of Oxford), resided in a Royal Castle at BENSON (Bēsintone), which was a place of celebrity in the Saxon period of our history. It was wrested from the Celtic Britons by the Saxon Invaders in the year 571. And, from the Celtic connexion with Benson and its neighbourhood, may be traced the name of the CHILTERN Hills and Hundreds. CELTERNE, in Saxon, signifies the habitation of the CELTS ; and the Danes are described, in the Saxon Chronicle A.D. 1009, as ascending through Ciltern, and so to Oxford. GRIMESDYKE,[a] which signifies "the Ditch of the boundary," formed a line of separation between Wessex and Mercia ; for it is remarkable that the first Parish on the northern frontier, in Oxfordshire, is called NEWNHAM, (Newnham Murren) ; that is, the habitation of New Men ; such as the Mercians, or Middle Angles, were considered by their Saxon neighbours. For the same reason, a Farm opposite "HOMER,"[b] is still called English ; that is, the habitation of the Angles. So extensive was the Manor of Benson, in ancient times, that the Church became the "Matrix Ecclesia," or Mother Church, of all the Churches and Chapels in this District, including that of

(a) Or, the Ditch made by magic.

(b) HOCK-MERE ; that is a high, or principal boundary. The name of the Father of Poesy is seen through the dim mist of Celtic, and Cimmerian antiquities. No wonder that nineteen Cities disputed the place of his nativity. The name is not Greek, but Celtic.

Henley on Thames. The Royal Manor of Benson was granted, by Patent, 1st of King John, with the Town of Henley, to Robert de Harcourt; whence the name of Harcourt Hill.

The CHILTERN HILLS are comprised in the range of Chalk extending from Norfolk to Dorsetshire. But the CHILTERN HUNDREDS are composed of the three Hundreds of DESBOROUGH, STOKE, and BURNHAM, in Buckinghamshire, and four Hundreds and a half in Oxfordshire,—PYRTON, BINFIELD, LANGTREE, and LEWKNOR Hundreds, and EWELME the half Hundred; (called in Domesday *Dimid Bēsinton*, the half Hundred of Benson).

The STEWARDSHIP of the Chiltern Hundreds was originally no Sinecure, but an Office of importance; for the Steward, who was appointed by the Crown, was bound to maintain and protect the King's rights, liberties, and possessions throughout this extensive District. But Henry the Third having given the Honor of Wallingford to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the Office of Steward became merged in the Constableship of the Castle of Wallingford; and, the Crown Lands in this District having been sold by the Crown Commissioners, the historical Stewardship is now merely nominal, and it passes, as a matter of course, or as an equivocal compliment, to any Member of Parliament who, during a Session, desires to vacate his seat.

The Castle and Honor of Wallingford were, by Act of Parliament 32nd Henry VIII, annexed to the Manor of Ewelme, under the Title of the Honor of Ewelme, of which Thomas Augustus Wolstenholme, Earl of Macclesfield is now the Lord,—his Ancestor (George 4th Earl), having purchased it of the Crown in 1821.

ALFRED THE GREAT (who began to reign in 871) and His three Sons, long resided in Oxford; and, it is believed, in a Castle, with a Keep Tower (built by Offa, King of Mercia), on part of the future site of the "Oxford Castle," erected by Robert D'Oyley, in the fifth year after the Conquest;—with reference to which Fortress, *Rossus* says "*magnis aggestis molibus extruxit*," &c. Alfred also resided in the Manor House, or Palace, at Woodstock, and there translated Boëthius.

Alfred is the reputed Founder, in the year 872, of University College, Oxford. Certain it is that He gave life to the then

nucleus

nucleus of an University. He built three Colleges, or Halls. The first for Grammar, situate near the East Gate of the City, and (because it was instituted for the lowest of the Sciences), called *Parva Universitatis Aula ;* the second for logic and philosophy, to which Alfred gave the name of *Aula minor Universitatis.* This Hall was in School Street, a site now forming part of Brasenose College. And the third Hall was for Divinity Students, and occupied part of the larger quadrangle of the present University College ; and this Alfred called *Aula magna Universitatis.*

Alfred's example gave rise to many more Halls being built ;—which Halls are now, after the lapse of a thousand years, either merged in Colleges, or buried in oblivion.

King Alfred held one of His first Councils (a Witenagemote) at Shifford, near Bampton, in the year 885. There sate at it "many Thanes, many Bishops, and many learned Men, wise Earls, and Knights." A piece of ground at Shifford is still called 'Court Close.' And a neighbouring field at Aston is 'Kinsey,' (King's way).

Edward the Elder (Son of King Alfred), was a Student of the University, and, "from His Father's example and instruction, proved a great friend to Learning and learned Men." *Anthony Wood.*

Prince Ethelward (another son of Alfred) was styled *Vir literatissimus et philosophus in Academia Oxon.* "He preserved the University in a very flourishing condition."

Athelstan (King in succession to his Father, Edward the Elder), was educated in the University of Oxford. He held a Witenagemote at Dorchester in the year 958.

Ethelred the Second (surnamed the Unready), held Witenagemotes in Oxford in the year 1002, and at Eynsham in 1009. He had Royal Residences at Headington, and Islip. And He held a Council, or Parliament, at Woodstock. The site of the Palace at Headington may still be identified by a Field called Court Close. And Corn for the Royal Household was ground at "King's Mill," near Magdalen College Water Walks.

During

During Ethelred's Reign the Danes burnt the City of Oxford, in the year 1013, in retaliation for the general massacre of their Countrymen by order of that Monarch. And the City was again burnt by the Danes in 1032.

Svein, or Sweyn, reigned in 1013-14; and, in that interval, to revenge the massacre of the Danes in Oxford, He set fire to the City, which was surrendered to Him.

Edmund the Second (surnamed Ironside, from His great valour), was murdered at Oxford in 1016, by Duke Edric, and was buried at Glastonbury.

THE DANISH DYNASTY.

Canute (surnamed the Great), held Witenagemotes at Oxford in the years 1018 and 1022, at which latter the Laws of England were first translated into Latin, and enjoined equally on His Danish as on His Saxon Subjects. And in 1026 He held a great Council at Oxford, at which the Edicts of King Edgar were confirmed. Canute lived several years in Oxford. He was an especial Friend to the Muses; and, in 1031, He obtained from the Pope an exemption from the University for Taxes and Tribute.

The custom of hanging up the armour of Kings and Nobles in Churches, came from Canute placing his Crown upon the head of the Crucifix at Winchester, after He found that He could not make the Sea obey Him.

Harold the First (surnamed Harefoot, from his swiftness in running), was elected to be King at a Meeting of the Nobles of the Realm in Oxford. He lived in the Castle at Oxford, and His Coronation took place there in 1036, with circumstances of great magnificence. He held a Parliament in Oxford in 1036, and died there in 1040. History records of Him that, "besides violating the consecrated places of study and worship in Oxford, He robbed them of their revenues given by Alfred."

RESTORATION OF THE ANGLO-SAXON DYNASTY.

EDWARD THE THIRD (surnamed the Confessor), was born A.D. 1004, in the Palace at Islip, built by His Father (King Ethelred the Second). Edward was crowned at Winchester 11th April 1042. He was a Patron of Learning. "By this King's Laws the University of Oxford was entirely restored to all its Stipends formerly granted by King ALFRED, and lately lost by the rapine of HAROLD." *Ayliffe.*

NORMAN LINE.

WILLIAM THE FIRST (called the Conqueror), lived much at Oxford, soon after the Conquest. The Citizens refusing to submit to Him, He took Oxford by storm in 1067, and gave it to Robert D'Oyley. The King despoiled private Houses and Scholastic Halls, and invested D'Oyley with them. He also deprived of Exhibitions founded by King Alfred, such of the Scholars as refused to preach in the Norman, to the extinction of the Saxon language. But He at length found that His prejudices did not avail, and He became reconciled to the University, and sent His youngest Son, HENRY, (afterwards King Henry the First), to study there, "which gave great reputation to the place, and it became soon filled with Scholars."

At the date of the Domesday Book, the King had a Mural Mansion (a) at Langley, in the Parish of Shipton under Wychwood (then called Scipton), it being one of the twenty mural Mansions which, in King Edward's time, had been the property of Earl Algars.

WILLIAM RUFUS held a Conference at Oxford in 1088.

HENRY THE FIRST (surnamed Beauclerc, or the Scholar, the fourth Son of William the Conqueror, and the only one who was an Englishman by birth), was a Member of the University, and He built, and resided in Beaumont Palace in Oxford, about

(a) *Mural* Mansions were so called from the power of the King to have the Walls repaired, when necessary, or when He commanded it.

the

the same time as Osney Abbey was finished. He also in a great measure rebuilt the Royal Manor House, or Palace, at Woodstock, and inclosed the Park with a Wall and stocked it with wild Animals ("Lions, Leopards, strange spotted beasts, Porcupines, Camels, and such like"), it being the first walled Park[a] in England.

Henry also founded Saint Bartholomew's Hospital near to Oxford, on the border of Cowley Marsh, and endowed it for the reception of 12 leprous Persons, and a Chaplain. In the Reign of Edward the 2nd its constitution was altered, and, in the following Reign, at the suggestion of Adam de Brome, Almoner to the late King, the Hospital was, in 1328, conveyed to Oriel College. It was afterwards used by that Society as a place of retirement when pestilential diseases occurred in Oxford; and in 1643 it was made a Pest House. During the Rebellion a large portion of the ancient Structure was destroyed by the Parliamentary Army, but, after the Civil War, rebuilt by Oriel College.

HOUSE OF BLOIS.

King Stephen, Grandson of William the Conqueror, resided at Beaumont Palace, in Oxford. He held a Parliament there in 1136, when He abolished the Tax of Dane Gelt, and granted great immunities to the People. He held another Parliament there in 1139, when the Bishops of Lincoln and Salisbury were imprisoned in consequence of a quarrel which arose between their servants and those of the Earl of Brittany. He closely besieged the Empress Maud (his Niece) when residing in Oxford Castle. Her Father (Henry the First) had settled on her the succession to the Crown, but Stephen possessed it, and England, during the greater part of His Reign, was a continued scene of bloodshed and horror. Maud married first, Henry the Fifth, Emperor of Germany, and secondly Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou, from whom came Henry the Second of England. Maud, aided by her half Brother Robert, landed in England to

(a) Hen de Knighton, p. 2,382. It is believed that the only previous walled Park was that at Watchingwell in the Isle of Wight, made by King William the 1st.

claim

claim the Crown, and gained the Battle of Lincoln 2nd February 1140. STEPHEN, after this defeat, was imprisoned in Bristol Castle, and MAUD (Matilda) was crowned at Winchester 1141. She came in that year, in great state, from Winchester to Oxford, with many Barons, who had promised to protect her during the Earl of Gloucester's absence in France, whither he went to bring over Prince Henry. She took possession of Oxford Castle, and the homage of the City, and fixed Garrisons at Woodstock Palace, and Bampton Castle. Stephen, by His siege, kept the Empress shut up in Oxford Castle from Michaelmas to Christmas, for, finding the Castle impregnable, He endeavoured to compel the Castellans to surrender, for want of provisions. MAUD however, was experienced in stratagems. She had escaped from Winchester Castle on a swift Horse, taking advantage of a pretended truce; and she released herself from the Castle of Devizes by being conveyed in a Hearse as a Corpse; and now at Oxford (it being Winter, and the ground covered with Snow), she escaped from the Castle in a white dress, walked over the frozen River, and on to Abingdon, and thence to Wallingford Castle. In 1147 MAUD was compelled to take refuge in Normandy, and Stephen resumed the Throne. Subsequently, in 1153, it was agreed, at a meeting of Barons at Wallingford Castle, that Stephen should reign for life, and be succeeded in the Crown by MAUD's son, Henry, Duke of Normandy. This agreement was confirmed at a Parliament held in Oxford in 1154.

PLANTAGENETS.

HENRY THE SECOND (surnamed Fitz-Empress, from his Mother, and Curt, or Shortmantle, from his having introduced the fashion of short Coats into England), had Beaumont Palace in Oxford, but made the Palace at Woodstock His chief Residence; and there He long secreted fair Rosamond Clifford, whose romantic adventures are so interwoven with the history of this Monarch. He held a Council at Oxford, against the Waldenses, in 1160; another in 1166, and a general Assembly there, in 1177, at which He made His son John, King of Ireland. And in 1185 He held at Oxford the Parliament called *Parliamentum magnum*. His two Sons,

RICHARD

Richard and John,[a] were born at Beaumont Palace, and both succeeded to the Crown in turn. The nuptials of the Lady Ermengard, Daughter of Richard, Viscount Beaumont, Cousin to Henry the Second, with William, King of Scotland,—were celebrated at Woodstock Palace, with the utmost magnificence, for four successive days.

Richard the First (surnamed *Cœur de Lion*, or Lion-hearted), eldest surviving Son of Henry the Second,—was born at Beaumont Palace in Oxford, in 1157. He held a Council in Oxford. He reigned from 1189 to 1199, but He passed only four months of that time in England. His engagement with Saladin, Emperor of the East; the Siege of Acre; and the Battle of Gisors, will be ever memorable. At that Battle He gave the parole of "*Dieu et mon droit*," which has ever since been retained as the motto of the Royal Arms of England.

John (surnamed Sansterre, or Lackland), Brother of Richard the First, was born at Beaumont Palace in Oxford, in 1166. He reigned from 1199 to 1216, and held Parliaments in Oxford in 1203 and 1207. He affixed His Seal to Magna Charta, at Runnemede, 19th June 1215; He having previously, at Oxford, haughtily refused to grant the Petitions of the Barons.

King John improved, and occasionally resided at the Royal House at Langley, (in the Parish of Shipton under Wychwood), called "King John's Palace."

Henry the Third (surnamed Winchester), held Councils at Oxford in 1227, 1233, and 1247, and occasionally resided at Beaumont Palace in Oxford, and He lived much in the Palace at Woodstock, including the greater part of the year 1235. In 1238 He narrowly escaped assassination there by a Priest named Ribbaud. This man, who was either insane, or feigned to be so, climbed through a window at night to the Chamber of the King and Queen. He was discovered while entering, by a devout woman, Margaret Byet, and taken to Oxford, and torn to pieces by Horses.[b] In 1256, at the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the King came to Woodstock, and invited thither

(a) One ancient Writer states that John was born at Bampton Castle.
(b) Cron. Tho. Wilkes, sub. an.

Alexander, King of Scots, and most of the English Nobility, whom he entertained with great variety and pomp.[a] Henry the Third held the Parliament at Oxford which first gave occasion to the Barons Wars. And in 1257 the King held at Oxford the Parliament which was called *Parliamentum Insanum.* The Regulations then made were denominated *the Statutes of Oxford*, and by them the Government of the Kingdom was transferred from Henry the Third to twenty four Commissioners (twelve chosen by Henry and twelve by the Barons), of whom Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, was the President. In 1264 Henry expelled the Students from Oxford, most of them being of the Earl of Leicester's Party.

Edward the First (surnamed Longshanks), resided occasionally at the Palace at Woodstock. And His Son, Prince Edmund, was born there in 1301. Edward called a Parliament at Woodstock in 1275. And mention is made of Acts of this King at Woodstock, in Seldon's History of Tithes, p. 356.

Edmund, the second Son of King Edward the First, by Queen Margaret, was born in the Palace at Woodstock 5th August 1301. He was surnamed Edmund of Woodstock, and created Earl of Kent by his half Brother King Edward the Second. For his endeavours to rescue Edward from Imprisonment, and restore Him to the Crown, Edmund was beheaded at Winchester in 1329.

Edward the Third (surnamed Windsor), was educated in the University of Oxford, under the tuition of Walter Burley. And He conferred many privileges upon the University. He was especially a Benefactor of Queen's College, and Oriel College, to which latter Society He gave a Mansion on the site of the present College. His Father (Edward the Second) was the Founder of the original College. He passed the first years of His marriage principally at Woodstock, and was always afterwards much attached to this regal abode. He held a Parliament at Oxford in the fourth year of His reign.

Philippa, Queen of Edward the Third, co-operated with Robert de Eglesfeld, (who was Her Confessor), in the foundation

(a) Mat. West. sub. an.

of

of Queen's College, Oxford, which was so called at Her request; and She commended it to the support and protection of all future Queens Consort of England.

Edward, eldest Son of King Edward the Third, (surnamed the Black Prince, from the colour of his Armour), was born at the Palace at Woodstock 15th June 1330. He was one of the earliest Members of Queen's College, Oxford. The King conferred pensions for life upon the Prince's Nurse, Joan de Oxford, and his Rocker, Maud Plumpton. This Prince was, as a child, nursed at, and occasionally resided in a House at Old Woodstock, called Prince's Place, still distinguishable by an angular stone Chimney of curious construction. He was Commandant, under his Father, at the Battle of Crecy, in 1346. The Order of the Garter was instituted in 1350; and three Ostrich feathers, with the words *Ich Dien* (I serve), were introduced as the Prince of Wales's Motto. They were on the helmet of the blind King of Bohemia who fell at Crecy, fighting on the side of the French.

Thomas, seventh Son of King Edward the Third (surnamed Thomas of Woodstock), was born in the Palace at Woodstock 7th January 1355. He afterwards became Earl of Buckingham, and ultimately Duke of Gloucester. To express the joy of the King, at the birth of this Prince, He held solemn Jousts and Tournaments at Woodstock, to which the Nobility resorted in great numbers.[a] At Radcot Bridge, in Oxfordshire, Thomas of Woodstock, with the Duke of Gloucester and Henry Earl of Derby (afterwards Henry the Fourth), defeated Thomas de Vere, Earl of Oxford and Marquis of Dublin, who with difficulty saved his life by swimming across the Isis.

Of the three Royal Personages last noticed as born at Woodstock, not one ascended the Throne.

Richard the Second (surnamed Bordeaux), held Parliaments at Oxford in 1382, and 1383. He frequently lived at the Palace at Woodstock, and, at a Christmas Festivity and Tournament in His Reign, (1391) John Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, was slain.

(a) Barnes' History of Edward III. p. 488.

HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

(RED ROSE).

Henry the Fourth made Oxford and Woodstock His head quarters in the year 1400, at the period of the Conspiracy to restore Richard the Second to the Throne. And the heads of the Duke of Surrey and the Earl of Salisbury, cut off at Cirencester, were conveyed on long poles to King Henry at Oxford, he then lodging there in the Abbey of the Carmelites. This Abbey was the former Beaumont Palace, Edward the Second having given it to the Carmelites. Many Knights and Esquires were beheaded in Oxford Castle at this eventful time.

Henry the Fifth (surnamed Monmouth), born 9th August 1388, and crowned 16th April 1413, was educated at Queen's College, Oxford, under the tuition of His Relative, Cardinal Beaufort, and resided in Rooms in the College. Two ancient Paintings of Him, in glass, still exist at Queen's, taken from the "Prince's Room," in the old College; of which Room there exists a sketch. He was

"The Victor of His foes, and of Himself."

This is His high commendation in the Inscription still preserved in the north Window of the Library at Queen's; the whole of which, according to Wood, before its removal from the Window of the Royal Chamber, ran thus.

In perpetuam Rei memoriam.
Imperator Britanniæ,
Triumphator Galliæ,
Hostium Victor et Sui.
Henricus V.
Parvi Hujus Cubiculi
Olim magnus Incola.

Henry the Fifth gained the Battle of Agincourt 25th October 1415.[a] He died at Vincennes 31st August 1422.

(a) Advantage should be taken of any accidental coincidences in figures or names to fix the dates of facts chronologically in the memory. For instance,—1215 is the date of Magna Charta; 1415, that of the Battle of Agincourt; and 1815 of Waterloo. Again, 1588 is the year of the destruction of the Spanish Armada; and 1688 of the great Revolution. And the beginning of the 16th Century (1517) is signalised by the Reformation; that of the 17th (1603), by the union of the *Crowns* of England and Scotland; that of the 18th (1706), by the union of the same Kingdoms; and that of the 19th (1801), by the union of the *Parliaments* of England and Ireland.

Henry the Sixth (surnamed Windsor), was educated at Oxford.[a] He founded Eton College, and King's College, Cambridge. He visited at Oxford in July 1437.

HOUSE OF YORK.

(WHITE ROSE).

Edward the Fourth (Earl of March), resided frequently at the Palace at Langley. And it was when hunting, in Wychwood Forest, that He first met, and became enamoured with His future Queen, Lady Elizabeth Grey, Daughter of Sir Richard Woodville, and Widow of Sir John Grey, who was slain in the second Battle of Saint Albans. The King married her, despite the fact that He was already under promise of alliance to the Princess Bonne of Savoy. This was the second instance, since the Conquest, of an English King having married a Subject. John was the first example. Owing to its contiguity to the Forest of Wychwood, Langley Palace was occasionally the residence of the Royal Family during those many ages in which a noble and almost romantic passion for the Chase universally prevailed, and which displayed, in the most striking manner, the pristine prowess of the English Huntsman. Langley Palace is in the Parish of Shipton under Wychwood, and in the Register of Burials of that Parish in the early part of the seventeenth Century, is an entry of a Person being drowned in the Evenlode, "the Court then being at Langley."

Edward the Fourth was an encourager of Literature, and a zealous Friend of the University of Oxford; the Title of Protector of which He assumed. In 1481 the King and Queen, upon a visit to Oxford, occupied Rooms at Magdalen College. They arrived at the College from Woodstock Palace, and were received by the Founder, the President, and other Dignitaries, with great circumstance.

Edward the Fourth was a Benefactor of Queen's College.

Richard the Third paid a visit to Oxford soon after His assumption of the Regal dignity; and He afterwards passed an

(a) *Ayliffe* Vol. 1 p. 166. *Sed quære?*

Act

Act empowering the University to export or import Books at pleasure. He held His Court at Magdalen College, and heard disputations in the Hall. He was feasted there royally, and recognized the cheer of His hosts by a present of fat Bucks from His Forest.

HOUSE OF TUDOR.

(UNION OF THE WHITE AND RED ROSES).

Henry the Seventh (surnamed Tudor). The Palace at Woodstock was a favorite residence of Henry the Seventh. He was fond of having Ludi, or Court Masqueradings; and a celebrated one, entitled "The Negramansir," (in which the characters were a Neccromancer, the Devil, a Notary, Simony, and Avarice), was played before the King and other Estates at Woodstock on Palm Sunday 1501. Oxford was visited by the Plague and malignant Fevers during Henry the Seventh's Reign; and it was also the scene of successive commotions and tumults.

The King's eldest Son, Arthur, Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the Throne, and the elder Brother of Henry the VIIIth (whose birth was welcomed as the probable cause of the restoration of peace between the Houses of York and Lancaster), was a Member of Magdalen College, Oxford. But, remembering that it was only in the young Prince's 15th year that he was married to Catherine of Arragon (the future Wife of Henry the VIIIth), and that he died in the fifth month after his marriage (2nd April 1502), it is not possible that he could have resided long in Oxford. However, he is said to have made great proficiency in learning, and an array of Classical Authors whom he studied, is quoted by Speed. After his Marriage, Prince Arthur visited Oxford on his way to join the Princess at Ludlow Castle, and his Entertainment at Magdalen College on this occasion is thus recorded. "He was lodged in the Apartments of the President; Rushes were provided for the Prince's bedchamber; he was treated with a brace of Pike and a brace of Tench: both his Highness and his Train received presents of Gloves, and were refreshed with red wine, claret, and sack."

Henry the Eighth is regarded as the Founder of Christ Church, Oxford, He having completed the work begun by Cardinal Wolsey. In the second year of His Reign (1510) the King, "with divers Nobles, came to Oxford, for whose reception an Act was purposely appointed." In 1518 the King, and Queen Catherine, sojourned at Abingdon, in consequence of the sweating sickness raging in London; and the University Authorities did homage to their Majesties at Abingdon. The Queen, accompanied by Wolsey, paid a visit to Oxford at this period. Henry the Eighth, in 1532, paid His first Royal visit to Christ Church, after the death of Wolsey, and was sumptuously entertained. A "great solemnity was made at the reception of the King." *Anthony Wood.* And *Wood* records that in 1543, "The King's coming to Oxon was much expected this year, but He came not."

Henry resided occasionally at the Palace at Woodstock, and there an attempt was made on his life by William Morisco.

In the Reign of Henry the Eighth, Oxford became the seat of one of the six new Bishoprics created by that Monarch. *Ayliffe* describes Him as "undoubtedly the most munificent Patron of Learning among all our Princes."

"On the 15th of July 1548 (2 Edward VIth) Queen Catherine (Widow of Henry the VIIIth) was, with great solemnity, received into Magdalen College, by the Vice Chancellor and Scholars of the University, especially by the Venerable Dr. Owen Oglethorpe, President, with the Scholars of that College, and there entertained with a most sumptuous Banquet, to the great honor of that Society." *A. Wood.*

MARY.

The second Parliament of Queen Mary was summoned to meet at Oxford, whence it was adjourned to Westminster.

In the Reign of Mary, Oxford was the scene of the Martyrdom of Bishops Latimer and Ridley, for the alleged crimes of heresy and treason; and, a few months after, Archbishop Cranmer suffered death by the like martyrdom of being burnt at the Stake, in Broad Street, Oxford. To commemorate this sad and historical tragedy, the effigial Cross (built from the design of

the

the Eleanor Crosses), was, in 1841, erected at the south end of Saint Giles' Street,—the chief Promoter of which splendid Memorial was the Reverend Vaughan Thomas.

ELIZABETH.

In the early part of Queen Mary's Reign of five years, Her Sister, the Princess Elizabeth, was accused of participation in the Conspiracy in favour of Lady Jane Grey's accession to the Throne; and the future great Queen of England was within a hair's breadth of the Block upon which Jane Grey had perished. For this alleged conspiracy, and her opposition to Queen Mary's Religious opinions, Elizabeth was committed to the Tower on the 11th of March 1554; and, on the 19th of May, was removed, in charge of the Lord Williams and Sir Henry Bedingfield, to the Palace at Woodstock. On the journey thither, Elizabeth was entertained by Lord Williams at his Mansion at Rycot. This visit, though carrying with it a show of honour, was, in truth, a confinement. Lord Williams however, gracefully sinking the character of a watchful Superintendent in that of a Host, introduced the Princess to a large circle of Nobility and Gentry whom he had invited to Rycot to bid her welcome. The severe and suspicious temper of Bedingfield took umbrage at the sight of such an Assemblage, and he ordered his Soldiers to keep strict watch, insisting also that none of the Guests should be permitted to pass the night in the House; and he asked Lord Williams if he were aware of the consequences of thus entertaining the Queen's Prisoner? To which my Lord answered that *he well knew what he did, and that her Grace might, and should be merry in his House.* Intelligence however, had no sooner reached the Court of the reception afforded to the Princess at Rycot, than directions arrived for her removal to Woodstock. Here, under the harsher inspection of Bedingfield, she found herself once more a Prisoner. No Visitor was permitted to approach. The Doors were closed upon her as in the Tower, and a Military Guard again kept watch around the walls both day and night.

Elizabeth, as Princess, was confined at Woodstock till April 1555,—when she was removed to Hatfield. Lord Williams petitioned the Queen to be permitted to take the Princess to

Rycot

Rycot, and offered large bail for her safe keeping; but the petition was refused. She complained of the severity of her treatment at Woodstock, and called Sir Henry Bedingfield her Gaoler. The Room chiefly used by the Princess was in the part of the Palace (the Gatehouse), which was last destroyed; and the only vestige now of the Princess' name is the Island in Blenheim Lake, still called Elizabeth's Island.

Elizabeth, when Queen, always addressed Lord Williams' Mother by the singular term of endearment, *my own Crow.*

When Elizabeth came to the Crown, She (in September 1566) visited Oxford, and afterwards voluntarily honored Rycot for a short time with Her presence and abode. The Queen resided at Christ Church for a week, and daily attended the public exercises in the University Schools. Her Majesty came to Oxford from Woodstock, with a noble retinue, and, at the boundary of the University Liberties, was met by Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the Chancellor, and the Heads of Houses in their scarlet Robes. Marbeck, the public Orator, delivered an Oration, beginning '*Multa sunt divinæ erga nos bonitatis*,' &c.; and, at the end, the Queen said to him, 'We have heard of you before, but now We know you.' On approaching Oxford, the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Willyams), with the Aldermen and others, received Her Majesty, and, in the name of the City, presented to Her a silver gilt Cup, filled with Coins of old Gold. On arriving at the North Gate, Robert Deale of New College made an Oration, in the name of all the Undergraduates, who lined the Street from the Gate to Carfax, and, kneeling, exclaimed '*Vivat Regina*' as the Queen passed; She replying '*Gratias ago, gratias ago.*' At Carfax a Greek Oration was delivered by Mr. Lawrence, the Regius Professor; after which the Queen proceeded to Christ Church, between lines of Masters and Bachelors. Upon the Gates and Walls of the College were Latin and Greek verses, of which the following, by Dr. James Calfhill, one of the Canons,—is a specimen.

Inclyta fœminei Virgo quæ gloria sexus,
Et generis decus et gentis Regina Britanniæ
Grata venis nobis, perfectaque gaudia portas,
Imperfecta tui subiens monumenta parentis.

On the following night was acted, in Christ Church Hall, a Latin Play, called *Marcus Geminus*, which was attended by all the Nobility, and the Spanish Ambassador, (who lodged at

Merton

Merton College), but the Queen was too fatigued to be present. She however, the next evening heard, in the Hall, an English Play named Palæmon, or Palamon and Arcyte, and laughed heartily at it, giving the Author (Mr. Richard Edwards), great thanks. The Evening however, was marred by part of the Stage falling, and killing three persons (a Scholar of St. Mary Hall, a Brewer, and the Cook of Corpus), and injuring others. After the interval of a day, the Queen attended another Play in Christ Church Hall. In the course of it was acted a cry of Hounds upon the train of a Fox in the hunting of Theseus, with which the Undergraduates (who stood in the Windows), were so much taken that they cried out 'Now, now—there, there—he's caught, he's caught.' All which the Queen beholding said 'Oh, excellent! those Boys in very troth are ready to leap out of the windows to follow the hounds.' On the following night a Latin Tragedy, called Progne, written by Canon James Calfhill, was acted before the Queen and Her Court in Christ Church Hall. On the seventh day the Queen left Oxford for Rycot, a great procession accompanying Her from Christ Church; and on reaching Magdalen Bridge, the High Steward of the City (Sir Francis Knollys), informed Her that the City Liberties extended no farther, whereupon She bid farewell, with many thanks, to the Mayor and his Brethren; but the University Authorities attended Her Majesty as far as Shotover House. There the Earl of Leicester (Chancellor of the University) told Her that the University Liberties reached no farther that way; whereupon Mr. Roger Marbeck delivered an eloquent Oration to the Queen, containing many passages relating to learning, and the encouragement of it by Her Majesty; which, being concluded, the Queen gave him Her hand to kiss, with many thanks to the whole University, speaking in these words, with Her face towards Oxford: "Farewell the learned University of Oxford, farewell my good Subjects there, farewell my dear Scholars; and pray God prosper your studies; farewell, farewell." The Obelisk in view of the present Mansion was built to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's visit, and to mark the site of the former House. There are several traditions as to the origin of "SHOTOVER;" but the one most accredited is "*Chateau Vert.*" From Shotover, the Queen, with Her Train, rode to Rycot, then the Seat of Sir Henry Norreys, and made there a short stay. The Apartment in which the Queen then lodged was ever after distinguished,

and

and known in the Family, as Queen Elizabeth's Chamber. The Tower of which this Chamber is a part, is still standing; as is Rycot Church, in which is a Pew called Queen Elizabeth's Pew.

In August 1572 Queen Elizabeth was in residence at Woodstock Palace, and the University did homage to Her there, and presented gloves.

The Queen again visited Oxford in 1574, in compliment to the Earl of Leicester, Chancellor of the University. Again in 1575, when She was residing at Woodstock. Again, Oxford and Rycot in 1591. And Oxford in 1592. This was the Queen's last visit to Oxford. A Divinity Act was kept before Her, on this question, Whether it be lawful to dissemble in matters of Religion? "One of the Opponents endeavoured to prove the affirmative by his own example, who then did what was lawful, and yet he dissembled in disputing against the truth; the Queen being well pleased at the wittiness of the argument. Dr. Westphaling (who had divers years been Bishop of Hereford), coming then to Oxford, closed all with a learned determination; wherein no fault, except somewhat too copious (not to say tedious), at that time, Her Majesty intending that night to make a Speech, and thereby disappointed. Next day Her Highness made a Latin Oration to the Heads of Houses on the same token. She therein gave a check to Dr. Reynolds for his nonconformity, in the midst whereof, perceiving the old Lord Burleigh stand by, with his lame legs, She would not proceed till She saw him provided of a stool, and then fell to Her speech again, as sensible of no interruption, having the command as well of Her Latin tongue, as of Her Loyal Subjects." *Fuller's Church History*, *Book* ix. *Cent.* xvi.

To Fuller's record it may be added that the Queen came, on this occasion, with a splendid retinue from Woodstock, and was met, with great array and circumstance, near Woolvercot, by the University, and in St. Giles's by the City Authorities; each Body presenting to Her Majesty a silver gilt Cup. The Queen lodged at Christ Church for six days, and the same Ceremonies were observed as at the Royal visit in 1566. On one of the days the Queen and Her Court dined in Merton College Hall; and, after the Banquet, Divinity Disputations were held by the Fellows on the question

An dissentiones civium sint utiles Reipublicæ?

On

On leaving Oxford, the Queen was again escorted as far as Shotover, and there, on parting with the University Authorities, exclaimed "Farewell, farewell dear Oxford; God bless thee, and increase thy Sons in number, holiness, and virtue." And Her Majesty proceeded to Rycot.

To Queen Elizabeth, the homage of Learning was particularly grateful, and hence She visited Oxford frequently in order to receive it. She is enrolled as a Benefactor of the University.

HOUSE OF STUART.

JAMES THE FIRST.

In the year of James the First's accession (1603), the Plague raged with so much violence in London that the King, with His Court, removed to Oxford, and was entertained at Christ Church, in order to be out of the sphere of the malignant influence of the Plague. But hither, in a short time, the malady most unfortunately followed, and great mortality ensued. Most of the Students fled into the country, and, in the City of Oxford, business was entirely suspended. The King again visited Oxford in 1609.

Anne, the Queen of James the first, visited at Caversham House, on Her progress from Hampton Court to Bath, in 1613. Her Hosts were Lord and Lady Knollys, who entertained Her Majesty with Revels. And a gallant Masque was performed by the Lord Chamberlain's four Sons, and other young Noblemen, with Sir Henry Rich (created, by King James, Baron of Kensington), and the Earl of Holland.[a] In August 1614 the King visited Oxford, on His way to Woodstock. He went to the Bodleian Library, preceded by the University Bedels, and accompanied by many of the Nobility. On the following Sunday the Dean of Christ Church (Dr. William Goodwyn) preached before the King at Woodstock, taking as his text Jeremiah i. v. 10, "See, I have this day set Thee over the Nations, and over the Kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." From Woodstock the King went to Rycot, and was entertained

(a) He built the fine old House at Kensington known as Holland House.

there

there with great splendour. In August 1615 King James visited Oxford, on His way to Woodstock; when the Vice-Chancellor and Heads of Houses, and the City Authorities made their obeisance to His Majesty, and presented Him with very rich gloves. On this occasion, Prince Charles (afterwards Charles the First) accompanied the King, and was "honorably attended; and, having examined the principal Libraries and Buildings, and been entertained with Ceremonies and Feasting suitable to his Dignity, he was pleased, in his own hand, to matriculate himself a Member of the University, with this motto, *Si vis omnia subjicere, Subjice Te rationi.* CAROLUS P."

On the 22nd of August 1616, King James joined the Queen at Woodstock Palace, and remained there till the 28th, when He went to Rycot; and there He knighted Sir John Denham, Father of the Poet. During this visit to Woodstock, the King created the celebrated George Villiers (afterwards Duke of Buckingham), Baron of Whaddon, County of Buckingham, who was dressed, upon this occasion, in a Surcoat of scarlet velvet, the Lord Norreys carrying the robes of State, of the same velvet, before him, and Lord Compton the Coronet. He was introduced by the Lords Compton and Norreys, Lord Carew carrying the Trabea, or Robe of State, before him. The King received Villiers upon His Throne, the Queen and Prince Charles being present. Also, on the 28th of August, the King knighted, at Woodstock, Sir John Burgh, fifth son of Ulick, third Earl of Clanricarde, afterwards created Viscount Bourke of Clanmorris; Sir Francis Rogers of Somersetshire; Sir William Pope of Oxfordshire, (Son of Sir William Pope Baronet, afterwards Earl of Down), and Sir Richard Cecil of Northamptonshire, second Son of Thomas, first Earl of Exeter.

In 1621, King James, Prince Charles, and several of the Nobility visited Woodstock, to whom came the Vice-Chancellor, certain Doctors, and the Proctors, who, having been graciously received, returned to Oxford, leaving behind them many pairs of rich gloves, to be given to the King, the Prince, and the chief Attendants of the Court.

The Wits of the University, anxious to show themselves before the King, resolved to perform a Comedy, written by Barton Holyday, (this Comedy was printed in 1610, a second edition in 1618, and a third in 1630). Its plot was entirely figurative, all the liberal arts being personated in it, and the

Author

Author displayed great learning in the contexture of his Play, having introduced many things from the Ancients, particularly two Odes from Anacreon, which he inserted, one in his second, the other in his third Act.

Of the Author, it need only be said that he was the Son of a Tailor, and born in the Parish of All Saints, Oxford, about 1593. He was entered early at Christ Church, in the time of Dr. Ravis, his Relation and Patron, and in 1615 he took Orders. He had been noticed for his skill in Poetry and Oratory, and now distinguished himself so much by his eloquence and popularity as a Preacher, that he had two Benefices conferred upon him in the Diocese of Oxford. He visited Spain in 1618, as Chaplain to Sir Francis Stewart, who accompanied Count Gondemar home, after his first Embassy to England. Holyday afterwards became Chaplain to King Charles, and Archdeacon of Oxford, before 1626. In 1642 he was made D.D. by Mandamus, at Oxford, and at Iffley he sheltered himself during the Rebellion. When the Royal party declined, he so far sided with the prevailing powers as to be inducted into the Rectory of Chilton, Berks; for he had lost his Livings, and the profits of his Archdeaconry, which drew upon him much censure from his own Party. After the Restoration he quitted this Living and returned to Iffley to live on the Archdeaconry, where he died 2nd October 1661, and was buried in Christ Church Cathedral. He translated Juvenal, Persius, and Horace, and was the Author of numerous Sermons and Poems.

In 1621 James the First was splendidly entertained at Christ Church, and was present at the performance of Barton Holyday's Comedy of Τεχνογαμία, or the Marriage of the Arts; which however, proved so little to His Majesty's taste, that He rose several times to go, but was prevented by the entreaties of His Courtiers, who represented to Him the mortification that His retiring would cause. The evident impatience however, of the Royal Auditor produced the following epigram.

"At Christ Church Marriage done before the King,
Lest that those mates should want an offering,
The King Himself did offer,—what, I pray?
He offered twice or thrice to go away."

In August 1624, the King was residing at Woodstock Palace, where the Vice Chancellor of Oxford and the Heads of Houses

waited

waited on His Majesty, on the 23rd of that month. On the 25th the King, accompanied by the French Ambassador and other noble Personages, came from Woodstock to Oxford, and Degrees were conferred upon a number of them. The King, at this period, enjoyed great sport at Woodstock, in the hunting of 'Cropear,' a notorious Stag, whose death was solemnized with as much triumph as if it had been some great Conquest. On the 29th the King visited Shotover Lodge, and there knighted His Host Sir Timothy Tyrrell, and also Sir John Farmer of Oxfordshire. In March 1625 the King assembled a Parliament at Oxford, which was called *Parliamentum vanum*. The Lords, and Members of the Privy Council lodged at Christ Church. The House of Peers assembled in the larger Schools, and the Commons occupied the Divinity School.

Prince Henry, the eldest Son of James the First, was a Member of Magdalen College, Oxford, but he died, in 1612, at the age of nineteen.

CHARLES THE FIRST.

Charles the First very often took refuge in the classic shades of Oxford. In the first year of His Reign (1625) the Parliament (in consequence of the Plague raging in London), was adjourned to Oxford, and assembled in Christ Church. And, on His way to Oxford, the King took up His abode for sometime at Rycot, (then the Mansion of the Widow of Francis Norreys, Viscount Thame, and Earl of Berkshire). A Proclamation for transferring the Receipts of His Majesty's Exchequer from Westminster to Richmond, is dated at Rycot, 31 July 1625.

On the 19th of August 1629 the King, and Queen Henrietta, passed through Oxford on their route to Woodstock Palace. On the 23rd the Doctors and Proctors of the University went to Woodstock to give their Majesties a welcome; and the public Orator delivered an Oration; after which the University presented their Majesties with rich gloves, and Dr. Brett, the Warden of Merton College, received from the King the honour of Knighthood. On the following day the Ambassadors from the Low Countries and France, with several Nobles of England, came to see the University, which having done, they went to

Merton

Merton College where, after they had been congratulated in an Oration, by a Fellow of that House, they were entertained with a sumptuous Banquet.

On the 27th their Majesties left Woodstock, and, coming to Oxford, were met by the Mayor, Aldermen, and other Citizens, who presented to the King a fair gilt Bowl, and to the Queen a pair of rich Gloves; after which they viewed Wadham College, and the public Library, at which places respectively Speeches were addressed to them. Afterwards, going on the Leads over the Schools, a proposal was made to pull down the residue of Cat Street, (that part between the Schools and Saint Mary's), to the end that certain Buildings should be there erected for the use of the University, intended to be chiefly done by Dr. Laud, Bishop of London; and for that purpose a Terrier was made of all the Houses and Gardens in that space of ground, and sent to London to His Majesty.

The Ceremonies at the Library being finished, the King, Queen, and all the Retinue went to Merton College where, being received by the Warden and the Society, at the Gate, (Mr. James Marsh, of that House, speaking before them), they were conducted into the College and royally entertained with a rich Banquet, at the College charge, in honor of their newly knighted Warden. His Majesty afterwards conferred the honor of knighthood on William Spencer of Yarnton, Esquire.

On the 23rd of August 1631 the King, having received a Petition from the Vice Chancellor as to certain "factious and disorderly courses" in the University, evinced in Sermons and otherwise,—heard the Cause Himself at Woodstock, in the presence of all the Lords of His Council, and having heard several Heads of Colleges on one side, and the impugned Parties on the other,—adjudicated that the Proctors should resign their Offices, and certain others be banished the University. And the Decree was afterwards committed to writing under the King's Signet. This Decree, amongst other things, ordained the Hebdomadal Board (or Council), which has ever since been held. *Archbishop Laud's History of the Chancellorship of Oxford p.* 44.

On the 29th of August 1636 (the Plague raging in London), the King, the Queen, and their Court arrived at Oxford, from Woodstock. The Chancellor (Archbishop Laud), the Vice-Chancellor, and numerous Doctors and Masters went out to

meet

meet the Royal Retinue. The Chancellor, accompanied by the Lord Treasurer (Bishop Juxon), the Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Walter Curle), the Bishop of Norwich (Dr. Matthew Wren) and the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. John Bancroft) rode in a Coach; the Doctors and Masters on horseback, with foot cloths, preceded by the three Esquire Bedels. Having ridden as far as the Way leading to Aristotle's Well, the Procession made a halt. After an interval, came the King and Queen, Charles Prince Elector Palatine, and his Brother Prince Rupert, all in one Coach; at whose appearance, the Chancellor, Treasurer, and Bishops, came out of their Coach, and the Doctors and Masters alighted, and, drawing near to that of the King, the Vice-Chancellor (with the rest all kneeling) spoke an eloquent Oration, occupying about a quarter of an hour. That being done, the Chancellor gave up the Bedels' staves to the King, and the King again to the Chancellor, and he to the Bedels. They then drew forward towards the City, and, being met by the Mayor, Aldermen, and certain Citizens on horseback (some having foot cloths), a Speech was spoken by the Recorder, and the Mace delivered up, and restored. That being done, they marched into the City, the Citizens leading the way, and, making a stand at St. John's College Gate, Mr. Thomas Atkinson, of that House, spoke another Speech to the King, very brief, and very much approved. Thence they went through Northgate Street (Corn Market) then by Quatre Vois (Carfax) and so through Fish Street (St. Aldate's), the sides of which were lined with Scholars of all degrees.

Being come within Christ Church gate, Strode, the University Orator, saluted the Royal party with another Speech; and afterwards the Chancellor, in the name of the University, presented to His Majesty a Bible in Folio, with a Velvet Cover richly embroidered with the King's Arms in the centre, and also a costly pair of Gloves; to the Prince Elector, Hooker's Book of Ecclesiastical Polity, with Gloves; and to his Brother, Prince Rupert, Cæsar's Commentaries, in English, illustrated by the learned Explanations and Discourses of St. Clement Edmonds (printed in 1600, with a fine portrait of Cæsar). After this the King accompanied the Queen to Her Lodging in Merton College, from whence coming instantly out, the Dean and Canons conducted His Majesty, with all the Lords, to the Cathedral; but before He entered, His Majesty knelt down at the large south Door, where,

lifting

lifting up His hands and eyes, with His long left lock of hair (according to the then mode), shelving over His shoulder, performed His private devotions. That done, Dr. John Morris, one of the Canons, entertained Him with a short Speech. Thence the King proceeded into the Choir, and heard Divine Service; which being concluded, the King was conducted to the Dean's Lodgings, where the Mayor and his Brethren waited upon His Majesty and presented to Him a Bowl, and certain Pieces of Gold in it. After the Royal Party had supped, they saw a Comedy acted in Christ Church Hall, written by Strode, the Orator, entitled, "Passions calmed, or the Settling of the Floating Island." A stage was erected, reaching from the upper end of the Hall almost to the hearthplace, and had on it three or four openings on each side, and partitions between them, much resembling the desks or studies in a Library, out of which the Actors presented themselves. These partitions could be drawn in and out at pleasure, upon a sudden, and new ones thrust out in their places, according to the nature of the scene; whereupon were represented Churches, Dwelling-houses, Palaces, &c., which, for its variety, produced very great admiration. Over all was delicate painting, representing the sky and clouds. At the upper end a great fair sheet of two leaves, that opened and shut without any visible help; within which was set forth the emblem of the whole play, in a very sumptuous manner. Therein was the perfect resemblance of the billows of the Sea rolling, and an artificial Island, with Churches and Houses, waving up and down and floating, as also Rocks, Trees, and Hills. Many other pieces of work and landscape did also appear, and a Chair was also seen to come gliding on the Stage without any visible help. These representations being the first of the kind used on the English Stage, gave great content. And Anthony Wood remarks that "Posterity ought to know that what is now seen in the Play Houses in London, is originally due to the invention of Oxford Scholars."

On the next day, the Prince Elector and Prince Rupert attended at the Convocation House and received the Degrees of Masters of Arts. And they were enrolled as Members of Saint John's College. In the Afternoon the Royal Party, with their Nobles, were entertained at dinner at Saint John's College. Archbishop Laud attended them up the Library stairs, where, as they ascended, certain Musicians above greeted them with a short Song, fitted and timed to the ascending the Staircase. In the Library

the

the Royal Party were welcomed to the College with a short Speech spoken by one of the Fellows, named Abraham Wright. They then passed to the new Library lately built by the Chancellor, (Archbishop Laud), where the King, Queen, and Prince Elector sat down to dinner at one table, standing across at the upper or north end, and Prince Rupert, with all the Lords and Ladies, at a long table, reaching almost from one end to the other, at which all the Gallants and Beauties of the Kingdom seemed to meet. All other tables, to the number of thirteen, besides the said two, were disposed in the several chambers of the College and had Men and Scholars appointed to attend them. "I thank God," said the Chancellor, "I had the happiness that all things were in very good order, and that no man went out of the gates, Courtier or other, but contented, which was a happiness quite beyond expectation." Dinner being ended, they retired into several withdrawing Chambers,[a] and, in the meanwhile, the Chancellor caused the windows of the College Hall to be shut, candles lighted, and all things to be made ready for the Play, which was then to begin, called "the Hospital of Lovers," made for the most part by Mr. Guy Weld, Fellow of Saint John's College. The plot and action were merry and without offence, and gave a great deal of content. In the middle of the performance, the Chancellor ordered a short Banquet for the Royal Party, and the College was at that time so well furnished that they did not borrow any one Actor from any College in the University. The Play ended, the King and the Queen went to Christ Church, retired, and supped privately, and about eight o'clock went into the Common Hall, there to see another Comedy, called "the Royal Slave," made by Mr. William Cartwright of that House. Within the Shuts were seen a curious Temple, and the Sun shining over it, a delightful Forest, and other prospects; also Villages, and men visibly appearing in them, going up and down, here and there, about their Business. The Interludes were represented with as much variety of scenes and motions as the great wit of Inigo Jones (well skilled in setting out a Court Mask to the best advantage), could command.

In the year 1642, when the storm which had so long been gathering burst forth into Civil War, Oxford was selected by

(a) A set of handsome Rooms is still called 'The King's Rooms.'

King

King Charles as the place of His head quarters. Here the unhappy Monarch met only with loyalty, consolation, and assistance. Of the vast quantity of ancient silver plate belonging to the different Colleges, very little is remaining. It was voluntarily contributed for the supply of the King's necessities, and was coined into money at New Inn Hall. To this sacrifice was added a loan of money by the University exceeding Ten thousand pounds.

During more than four years up to April 1646, the King resided, at frequent intervals, in Oxford. And Queen Henrietta occasionally joined His Majesty. The King was always lodged in the Deanery at Christ Church, and the Queen's apartments were in the House of the Warden of Merton College, (between which College and Christ Church a private way was formed for the time); and these Rooms are still known as the Queen's Rooms.

Jesse records that on one occasion the King wishing to consult some Volume in the Bodleian Library, sent for it. The Librarian however, with simple fidelity to his office, informed the Royal Messenger that no Book, once received, was ever allowed to be taken from the Library. This being communicated to the King, He rose up, put on His hat, and went to refer to the Book in the Library.

Prince Rupert had his Quarters in Magdalen College. And, before some of his daring enterprises, his Trumpets were heard sounding to horse through the quiet Cloisters of the College. A full length Portrait of Prince Rupert adorns one of the Walls of the College Hall. Lord Macaulay writes thus of Magdalen College: "It would be difficult to name any Corporation in the Kingdom which had higher claims to the gratitude of the House of Stuart."

In 1642, after the Battle of Edge Hill,—Banbury Castle, and Broughton Castle surrendered to the King, and Charles returned to Oxford; whence He marched to Brentford, and, after the Fight there, returned with His Prisoners to Oxford. The Colleges at this time presented the King with nearly all that then remained of their Plate, and with all the money left in their several Treasuries. Edge Hill was the first great Battle of the War, and it is usual to recur to it as a Victory on the part of the King; but me thinks that

Victor uterque fuit, victus uterque fuit,

is the more truthful verdict. In

In January 1644 a Parliament was assembled by Charles in Christ Church.[a] In the Spring of that year the general Parliament had five Armies in the field. Essex and Waller advanced to blockade Oxford. The Queen was removed thence to Exeter, for safety; but Charles remained shut up in Oxford. Its walls were surrounded by lines of defence;[b] but the blockading forces became so strong that resistance appeared to be hopeless. On the night of the 3rd of June the King secretly left the City, and passed safely between the two hostile Armies, and proceeded to Worcester. For an admirable narrative of this, the Reader is referred to the Reverend Vaughan Thomas's "Account of the Night March of King Charles," published in 1850. The King however, suddenly returned to Oxford, and then defeated Waller at Cropredy Bridge, near Banbury. And, after the second Battle at Newbury on the 27th of October, the King withdrew to Oxford. He thence went to Northamptonshire. In April 1645, Colonel Windebank surrendered Bletchingdon House to the Rebels, and for this he was tried by Court Martial, and shot within the precincts of Oxford Castle. On the 5th of June 1645 Fairfax received commands to raise the siege of Oxford, and to go to the midland Counties after the King. On the 14th of June was fought the disastrous Battle of Naseby, and the King fled from it to Leicester. Charles had fought His last Battle at Naseby. He moved from place to place till at Newark the King parted for ever from Prince Rupert, after a stormy meeting, and set out for Oxford, with four or five hundred Cavaliers, reaching that City, after a wearisome march, on the 6th of November, and remained there till the 27th of April following (1646), when, at three in the morning, the King,—accompanied by His Chaplain, Dr. Michael Hudson, and a Groom of His bedchamber, Ashburnham,—passed, on horseback, over Magdalen Bridge. Ashburnham had previously cut off the King's lock, and some part of His beard; (the lovelock, the well known badge of the

(a) The House of Lords sat in the Rooms now occupied by the Reverend T. J. Prout, a Senior Student, and the Commons in the Hall; and the door communicating between the two Assemblies still remains, though the Wall is bricked up.

(b) It may not be generally known that "the Parks" in Oxford were so called because parks of artillery were planted on the elevated margin of the Field, now generously converted by the University into a public Park and Arboretum.

Cavalier). One of Hudson's recommendations as a Convoy was his intimate knowledge of the cross Roads of the circumjacent Counties. The Governor of Oxford was privy to the escape, and himself unlocked the east gate of the City; and, after the King had passed through, the Governor ordered that no Gate of Oxford should be opened for five days. The King slept that night at Saint Albans. On the perilous journey Hudson was the Master, and the King and Ashburnham his Servants. The King had a Valise behind him on His horse.

In May of this year (1646), the General of the Parliamentary Army was quartered at Headington, and his Cavalry was so disposed on Headington Hill as to prevent the King's Troops sallying forth from Oxford; whilst the Parliamentary Foot Soldiers were thus distributed; the General's, and Colonel Pickering's Regiments at Headington; the Major General's and Colonel Harley's at Marston; and the Train of Artillery at Elsfield.

On the 22nd of June Oxford was surrendered to Fairfax, who had ineffectually besieged the City the year before. The conditions of surrender were extremely favorable to the Oxonians; not a single privilege either of the University or City being compromised. On Wednesday the 24th of June (1646), the capitulation of Oxford was completed. The march out from the Town began at 12 o'clock. It was a very rainy day. A Guard of Foot was appointed for the departing Soldiers and others to march through, which extended from a point in Saint Clement's, near Magdalen Bridge, to Shotover Hill. Two thousand and upwards, besides Officers, marched out in a Body, well armed, with Colours flying, and drums beating. A considerable number of Persons also, who were going to Gloucestershire and Yorkshire, and had convoys for that purpose,—marched out the same day by the North Gate. About five hundred Stragglers, being private Persons who were engaged in the Siege,—left Oxford the next day. Prince Rupert and his Staff left on the following Monday. About 900 of those who marched out on the Wednesday, laid down their Arms when they got to Thame, and received passes to go to their several homes.

The next, and last time the King was in Oxfordshire, was in 1647, when He was lodged,—more as a Prisoner than a Guest,—at the Earl of Craven's, at Caversham; where Charles was allowed the last interviews with His Children, the Dukes of York and Gloucester, and the Princess Elizabeth. They resided

at

at Caversham under the care of the Duke of Northumberland; and Charles was conducted from Windsor to Caversham House to pay this affecting visit. There is still an Avenue there called the King's Walk, in memory of Charles. This was not the first time that Caversham House had been used as a Prison; for when, in January 1622, the Earl and Countess of Somerset were released from the Tower, they were commanded "to repair either to Greys Court, or to Caversham, the Lord Wallingford's Houses, in the County of Oxford, and remain confined in one or other of the said Houses, and within three miles compass of the same, until further Order be given by His Majesty."

Whilst at Caversham, the King rode on horseback to a retired spot at Collins End, in Whitchurch Parish, (now part of Mr. Powys Lybbe's Estate), and there, at a Cottage, or small Inn, (near to Mr. Lybbe's Shooting Box, called Holly Copse), the King played at Bowls. The late Lord Augustus Fitzclarence, Vicar of Mapledurham, presented the Inn with a Sign of the King, with the following lines, (composed by the late Mr. Jesse of Windsor), painted below the Sign.

Stop Traveller, stop, in yonder peaceful glade,
His favorite game the Royal Martyr play'd.
Here, stripped of Honours, Children, Fortune, Rank,
Drank from the Bowl, and bowl'd for what He drank;
Sought in a cheerful glass His cares to drown,
And changed His guinea ere He lost His Crown.

In the great Rebellion the Palace at Woodstock was besieged, and much damaged. This ancient Abode of Kings was defended for his Royal Master by Captain Samuel Fawcet, with much skill and courage. Many of the Besiegers fell during the conflict; and the arrival of Commissioners from the King, empowered to treat concerning a surrender, alone prevented this intrepid Officer from burying himself beneath the ruins of the place, which was no longer to be defended with any hope of success. The Parliamentarians treated this venerable Palace with studied contumely. In 1649 Commissioners assembled here, by order of the Rump Parliament, for the purpose of surveying the Royal property. These Fanatics made the King's bed Chamber their Kitchen; the Council Hall they constituted a brewhouse; and in the Dining Room they placed, for the use of their fires, logs sawn from a noble tree which had long flourished in the Park under

the

the name of the *King's Oak*. But their triumph was soon interrupted by a combination of strange circumstances which filled that credulous age with wonder, and afforded an apt subject of laughter to the era which succeeded. Frightful noises assailed their ears in the night; dreadful phantasms glided before their eyes. Nor were their sight and hearing alone rendered subject to terrific visitations. Many round blows were given; their bed-clothes were torn in fragments; and sundry noxious ingredients were discharged on their amazed foreheads. The Populace dignified the nocturnal Operator with the name of the *Just Devil of Woodstock*. It afterwards transpired that the whole was contrived by the ingenuity of an adroit and humorous Royalist, named *Joe Collins*, who had procured the situation of Secretary to the Commissioners for the purpose of imposing on their credulity. When the jest was discovered, Collins was styled *the Merry Devil of Woodstock*.

The Furniture and Pictures were afterwards sold, (many of the latter being still preserved in the County); and the Building was portioned out by Cromwell, or his Agents, to three Persons. Two of them, about 1652, pulled down their portions for the sake of the stone. The third suffered his part to remain, which consisted of the Gatehouse before mentioned, and some adjoining ruinous Buildings. After the Rebellion, Lord Lovelace turned this Gatehouse into a Dwelling, and lived in it for many years. He was Captain of the Band of Pensioners to William the Third. Some venerable remains of the old Palace were to be seen till after the building of Blenheim, when every trace of the ancient Edifice was removed, and two Sycamore trees were planted to mark its site. One only of these Trees now remains. The following lines elegantly depict the Scene.

"Where yon spread Trees wave o'er the crystal stream,
And shew inverted by the solar beam;
There where the margin's daisy-mantled side
Shelves down to kiss the congregated tide,
An ancient Palace stood,—the loved retreat
Of Britain's Monarchs from the toils of State;
Where dropt the weight of diademic power,
The King, in private, spent the tranquil hour;
New schemes contriv'd, or ponder'd on the past,
Nor felt time slowly lag, nor fly too fast."

The

The Compiler may be forgiven for here diverging into the following narratives of JOHN HAMPDEN's last days and death, as an Appendix to the Notice of Charles the First.

"Immediately previous to the Battle in Chalgrove Field, the Head Quarters of a Detachment of the Parliamentary Army were (as I have always understood) at an Inn kept by Robert Parslow,(a) at Watlington, about three miles east of the Scene of Action; and that at this Inn, or at the Manor House of the neighbouring Village of Pyrton, (now the Seat of Hugh Hamersley Esquire), Hampden passed the night previous to the Engagement, which took place on Sunday morning, about eight o'clock. I have been informed, from authority I cannot doubt, that when Hampden was undressed to have his wounds examined, a Locket was found in his bosom, containing a slip of paper with the following couplet:

Against my King I do not fight,
But for my King and Kingdom's right.(b)

The house at Pyrton above mentioned, was the paternal residence of Mrs. Hampden. The following is a correct copy of their Marriage Registry:—"1619. John Hampden of Hampden Esqr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Symeon, daughter of Mr. Edmund Symeon, of Pyrton, was married the 24th of June, in the 17th year of King James." A bust over the common parlour door, supposed to have been intended for Hampden, has lately (1827) been demolished. In raising a ladder for the purpose of ridding it of dust, it was accidentally lifted off the pedestal and dashed to pieces by the fall."—*Anonymous.*

Also "A true and faithful narrative of the death of Master Hampden, who was mortally wounded at Chalgrove Fight, Ann. Dom. 1643 and on the 18th day of June."

"Prince Rupert, persuaded thereunto by one Urrie, a Scottish man and malignant Renegado, having, under the covertt of darkness, fallen upon our defenceless quarters at Wickenham, (Wycombe), and cowardliwise put to the sworde 57 of our men and three Officers, carrying off with them one greate gunn, a quantitie of munition,

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(a) *Parslow's Charity* is an eleemosynary endowment at Watlington, of much benefit to the poor of that parish. The tradition is that Mr. Parslow endowed this Charity with the money he found in a military chest dug up in his Garden, which had been secreted there by the Parliamentary Officers on the eve of the Battle of Chalgrove Field.

(b) This Locket is in the Bodleian Library.

and

"and other booty, with some prisners, was retiring towards Oxford, when the alarum came to the Earl of Essex, who dispatched some Horse with all spede to skirmish with and hinder the enemie, while himself with the Foot would cut off their returne. Master Hampden voluntiered his service with the Horse, albeit he had a Colonelcie in a Regiment of Foot; he courageously advanced, and when the enemie bye this rough charge were on the point of being thrown into confusion, he received two carrbine shott in his arme, which brake the bone; yet, being thus wounded, he would not presentlie leave the fielde, seeming regardlesse of the paine and greate letting of bloode, manfullie saying, 'he would not onlie lose his arme, but lay downe his life in that good cause he was engaged in.' He was conducted to the house of Master Ezekiel Browne (a well affected and Godlye man, who afterwards did good service in our Armie). He, contrarie to all opinion of skilfull Chirurgeons, appeared to have no hopes of a recoverie, from that hurt, and would, so long so his strength sufficed, write directions for the vigorous prosecution of the warfare, which were bye speciall Messengers forwarded to the Parliament, and these his Letters, in the sober judgement of men, have, under God His Providence, rescued these Realms from the hands of wicked men, who, Ahitophel-like, gave to a weake and credulous King that advice which has embroiled these Kingdoms in the present lamentable war. Being well nigh spent, and labouring for breath, he uttered this praier, which I being present did presentlie commit to writing as well as my recollection served me.

'O Lord God of Hosts, great is thy mercie, just and holie are thy dealings unto us sinful men. Save me, O Lord, if it be thy good will, from the jaws of death; Pardon my manifold transgressions; receive me to mercie. O Lord, save my bleeding countrie; have these Realms in thine especial keeping; confound and level in the dust those who would rob the people of their libertie and lawful prerogative; let the King see His error; and turne the hearts of His evil counsillours from the malice and wickednesse of their designes. Lord Jesus, receive my soule. Amen.'

After these his devout breathinges he mournfullie uttered, 'O Lord, save my countrie! O Lord, be merciful to'—— (here his breath failed, and he fell back on the bedde, and to the greate griefe of all good men, gave up the ghoste, after having with more than human fortitude indured most cruel

anguish

"anguish for the space of fifteen dayes). About seven houres before his death, he received the holie Sacrament, after the manner set forth by law; saying, that though he could not awaye with the gouvernance of the Church by Bishops, and utterlie did abominate the scandalous lives of some clergiemen, yet did he thinke its doctrine in the greater parte primitive, and conformeable to God His Worde, as in Holie Scriptures revealed. The whole armie at his buriall followed, singing the 90th Psalme; and at their returne, the 43rd, with ensigns furled and muffled drums, their heads uncovered. Never were hearde such piteous cryes at the deathe of one man, as at Master Hampden's; trulie he was a wise and good man, who was bye all looked up to as the deliverer of his countrie from Kinglie Tyrannie and arbitrarie power. He had in all his actions a view not unto his own particular good, but that of the common weal; of integritie uncorrupted, of a good courage and a most winning demeanour. In his younge dayes he had entered too larglie into the vaine pastimes of the world, but was reclaimed, as I have heard him confess, by an inward call from the Lord, which enforced him to laye aside those his pursuits. For his noble opposing of that unjust subsidie ship money, I need say nothing, it being in the dailie converse of all men; but shall conclude this narrative, hopeing the Lord, of His marvellous mercie and loving kindness to us, will forward the good cause, and bring these our present troubles unto a happie and peaceable conclusion.

By me Edward Clough, in the yeare of our redemption 1643."

CHARLES THE SECOND.

In consequence of the Plague raging in London, the Parliament of Charles the Second met in the great Hall of Christ Church, in Oxford, on the 9th of October 1665. And a gay Court surrounded the King there. He remained in Oxford till January 1666; and the Queen (Catherine of Braganza), was detained there, by illness, till the 16th of February, being hospitably lodged in Merton College. Again, a new Parliament met at Oxford on the 21st of March 1681, at a period of National excitement, and the King came to Oxford, accompanied by Queen Catherine, and surrounded by His Guards. They travelled from Windsor to Oxford with all the pomp befitting Royalty, and were received by

the

the High Sheriff on the confines of the County, and, near Oxford, by Lord Norreys, the Lord Lieutenant, who convoyed the Procession to Oxford, where the Royal Party were received by the Vice Chancellor and Heads of Houses, and the City Authorities, with great formalities and demonstrations of joy. The Parliament lasted only seven days. The King and His Court were at Christ Church, and the Queen at Merton College. The Peers made Christ Church Hall their House, whilst the Commons sat in the Schools. But they not affording sufficient space for the Assembly, the Theatre was ordered to be fitted up for the Commons, and the King was to be found busy amongst the Workmen in the Theatre. On one of the days the King made an excursion to Burford, and saw several horse races run. On the 28th of March two sedan Chairs were seen moving about Christ Church. At the door of the House of Lords the King got out of the first chair. His Robes were taken out of the second. But "the Garter robes were put instead of the robes of State; so the Chair must go back, with an Officer to bring the right." A Peer who saw the manœuvre was forcibly detained till the robes of State arrived. Then the King went into the House of Peers; the Black Rod summoned the Commons; and these unexpected words came from the Royal lips, "My Lords and Gentlemen,—That all the World may see to what a point we are come, that we are not like to have a good end when the divisions at the beginning are such, therefore, my Lord Chancellor, do as I have commanded you." My Lord Chancellor dissolved the Parliament. Charles governed, during the remainder of his life, without a Parliament.

Lord Macaulay (History of England Vol. I. p. 260), thus writes: "A new Parliament was summoned to meet at Oxford, in March 1681. Since the days of the Plantagenets the Houses had constantly sate at Westminster, except when the Plague was raging in the Capital: but, so extraordinary a conjuncture seemed to require extraordinary precautions. If the Parliament were holden in its usual place of assembling, the House of Commons might declare itself permanent, and might call for aid on the Magistrates and Citizens of London. The Trainbands might rise to defend Shaftesbury, as they had risen, forty years before, to defend Pym and Hampden. The Guards might be overpowered, the Palace forced, the King a Prisoner in the hands of His mutinous Subjects. At Oxford there was no such

danger

"danger. The University was devoted to the Crown; and the Gentry of the Neighbourhood were generally Tories. Here the Opposition had more reason than the King to apprehend violence."

The King's design in thus hastily dissolving the Parliament was to prevent the passing of the Bill for excluding His Brother James, Duke of York (afterwards James the Second), from succeeding to the Throne. This "Exclusion Bill" had agitated the Parliament and the Country for more than two years; and with it came in the Party Nicknames of *Whig* and *Tory* which will live for ever in English History. The anti-Exclusionists were first called *Yorkists*. Then *Tantivy* became a bye-word against them. The Duke of York and the Irish were for the most part in agreement, and consequently the Duke's supporters were first called *Bogtrotters;* and then the name *Tory* arose, which signified certain Savages amongst the wild Irish. Then followed the opposite factious name of *Whig*. And this name, according to Burnet (in his 'History of his own Time'), originated thus: "The south-west Counties of Scotland have seldom corn enough to serve them round the year; and the northern parts producing more than they need, those in the west came in the Summer to buy at Leith the stores that come from the north; and, from a word *whiggam*, used in driving their horses, all that drove were called *Whiggamors*, and, shorter, the *Whiggs*. Now, in that year, (1648), after the news came down of the Duke of Hamilton's defeat, the Ministers animated their people to rise and march to Edinburgh; and they came up marching at the head of their Parishes, with an unheard of fury, praying and preaching all the way as they came. The Marquis of Argyll and his Party came and headed them, they being about 6,000. This was called the Whiggamors' inroad; and ever after that all that opposed the Court came, in contempt, to be called *Whigs;* and from Scotland the word was brought into England." It was in 1679 that the name was revived as a designation for the Opponents of the Court in England. The Names *Whig* and *Tory* have not always been associated with uniform sets of political principles. Down to the Revolution of 1688 the object of the WHIGS was to make a reform or change in the ancient Constitution of the Country; and, till recently, their object has been to maintain the principles of the change then made. But they have from time to time shifted and modified their principles within certain limits, in conformity with the continual variations of circumstances; and

there

there have always been shades of opinion among the Persons constituting the same Party. These differences have been sometimes less, sometimes more distinctive; at one time referring to matters of apparently mere temporary policy, as was thought to be the case when the Whigs of the last age, soon after the breaking out of the French Revolution, split into two sections, which came to be known as the Old and New Whigs; at another, seeming to involve so fundamental a discordance of ultimate views and objects, if not of first principles, as to cause divisions of the Party to become Radicals.

On the other hand, the TORIES (who were first of all "The Exclusioners," supporting Charles the Second in the attempt of Parliament to change the Royal succession with a view to the Duke of Monmouth succeeding to the Throne), may be characterised, in the words of Dr. Johnson, as those who "adhere to the ancient Constitution of the State, and the apostolical Hierarchy of the Church of England." In other words, the maintenance of things as they have been, or, when some great change has taken place against the will of their Party,—things as they are,—has from the beginning been the prime characteristic of Toryism. All Parties in politics however, are liable to be forced to shift their ground; for, as Burke expresses it, they must occasionally vary their means to secure the unity of their end. Accordingly, in point of fact, much of what was once Whiggism has long become Toryism or Conservatism; the changes in the Constitution which were sought for being now attained: and, on the other hand, as new objects have presented themselves to it, Whiggism has, in so far as it retains its proper character, put on new aspects, and taken to itself new names.

Some Readers may not be acquainted with the following Riddle, composed by Charles the Second.

What's that in the fire, and not in the flame?
What's that in the Master, and not in the Dame?
What's that in the Courtier, and not in the Clown?
What's that in the Country, and not in the Town?

R.

JAMES THE SECOND.

During the turbulent times in which James exerted himself to subvert the Established Religion, the University of Oxford played no insignificant part. The Royal purpose had so far succeeded that Christ Church was governed by a Roman Catholic Dean, who instituted daily Mass there; and University College was converted into Roman Catholicism where Mass was also daily performed under the superintendence of the Master, Dr. Obadiah Walker. But so unpopular was this, that it was necessary to quarter a Troop of Dragoons in Oxford to allow "Ave Maria" to be sung without interruption from the scurrilous songs of the street. The crisis was at hand. The Presidency of Magdalen College was vacant. On the 15th of April 1687, the Fellows of that College elected Dr. John Hough, according to the Statutes of their Founder, to the vacant office of President. Upon their informing the King of their choice, they were cited to appear before the High Commission at Whitehall, which pronounced Hough's election void, and a Royal Mandate was despatched to the College recommending Parker, Bishop of Oxford, as the President. The Fellows respectfully represented to the King the difficulty in which they were placed, and, pleading the oaths which they had taken to observe the Statutes of their College, excused themselves, with many expressions of loyalty, from complying with the Royal Mandate. Indignant at this mutinous resistance of His power, and confident that His personal command would not be disobeyed, James decided upon proceeding to Oxford. He was met at the bounds of the County by the Earl of Abingdon, the High Sheriff, and Gentlemen of the County.[a] Having made a preliminary round of visits, on the 3rd of September 1687 He dined in great state at the ancient Palace at Woodstock. On the same evening He arrived in Oxford, and was received with all the honours usually accorded to Royalty, being welcomed by an avenue of Undergraduates from the entrance of the City to the Gates of Christ Church. He resided at the Deanery, where a Chapel was specially fitted up for the celebration of Mass. No delay was lost in summoning the Fellows of Magdalen into the royal presence, but they firmly maintained, in spite

(a) Aubrey's Letters Vol. 1, p. 31.

of

of the King's tyrannical insolence, that they were bound to obey their Statutes and Oaths, and to support the Election of Dr. Hough; and James left Oxford in anger.

To continue to narrate how, subsequently, the Royal Commissioners sat in Oxford, protected by military forces, and pronounced Parker's election valid,—how he was privately installed President by proxy,—how the college Butler was dismissed for refusing to scratch Dr. Hough's name off the Buttery Book,—how the Scholars refused to 'cap' the Rulers of the College,—and how it was not possible to find a Blacksmith in the whole of Oxford who would force the lock of the President's Lodgings (the Keys of which Dr. Hough refused to give up),—is not within the compass of our little work, and has been eloquently described by more than one of our greatest writers. Suffice it to say that the Fellows were one and all ejected from their College, and declared incapable of holding any Ecclesiastical appointment. The immediate object of the King was accomplished. Magdalen College soon became, for a time, a College of Papists, with a Roman Catholic Bishop at its head; but Parker died in a few months from anxiety and mortification.

The memorable resistance of Magdalen College to the command of James the Second, and His ejectment of the Fellows, are immortalised as part of our National history by a Fresco in one of the Lobbies of the Palace at Westminster.

Being by its Statutes obliged to entertain the Kings of England and their eldest Sons, when they visit the University, Magdalen College has not unfrequently been honored with Royal visits.

WILLIAM THE THIRD.

This King (whilst Prince of Orange) landed at Torbay on the 5th of November 1688, and in passing through Berkshire (by way of Abingdon and Wallingford), and Oxfordshire to London, took up his abode at Sir William Bulstrode's, Phillis Court, Henley on Thames, and there held his Court. From thence he issued an Order (dating it from *Our Court at Henley*), directing all Colonels and Commanders by beat of drum to call

together

together the several Officers and Soldiers in such places as they should think most convenient for rendezvous, and there to keep them in good order and discipline.

Upon the Prince's arrival in England the Warden of All Souls (Dr. Finch, Son of the Earl of Winchelsea), was deputed to wait upon the Prince at Crookhorn and invite him to Oxford, and assure him that the Plate of certain Colleges would be at his service, if needed: but it does not appear that the Prince availed himself of the invitation.

Upon King William's return from His brilliant Victory at Namur, He dissolved the Parliament, (10 Oct. 1695), and then proceeded on a tour of visits during the time of the general Election. In the course of this peregrination, the King left the dinner table of the Duke of Shrewsbury[a] at his Mansion at Heythrop in Oxfordshire, to proceed to Burford. There He was met by the whole population, who entreated him to accept some token of their love. Burford was then renowned for its Saddles, and we are told that one Inhabitant had the reputation of being the best Saddler in Europe. Two of his masterpieces were offered to the King, who accepted them with much grace, and ordered them to be especially reserved for His own use. From Burford the King came to Oxford; where,—to borrow from the characteristic eloquence of Lord Macaulay,—"William was received with great pomp, complimented in a Latin Oration, presented with the most beautiful productions of the Academic press, entertained with music, and invited to a sumptuous Feast in the Sheldonian Theatre. He departed in a few hours, pleading as an excuse for the shortness of His visit that He had seen the Colleges before and that this was a visit, not of curiosity, but of kindness. As it being well known that He did not love the Oxonians, and was not loved by them, His haste gave occasion for some idle rumours which found credit among the Vulgar. It was said that He hurried away without tasting the costly Banquet which had been provided for Him, because He had been warned by an anonymous letter that, if He ate or drank in the Theatre, He was a dead Man."

(a) He was the 12th Earl, and *only* Duke of Shrewsbury.

QUEEN ANNE.

On the 15th December 1688, (shortly after the restoration of the Fellows of Magdalen College who had been ejected by her Father, James the Second), the Princess Anne (afterwards Queen), came to Oxford, and "was received by the University and Town with all imaginable joy, honour, and triumph. Sir John Lainer's Regiment of Horse, here quartered, went out to meet her. The Earl of Northampton came in at the head of a great party of horse, both of Gentlemen and Militia Men, of two or three Counties; but, immediately before the Coach of her Highness, the Bishop of London (Dr. Henry Compton), in a Military Habit, blue Cloak, and pistols before him, his naked sword in his hand,—his colours purple, and the motto embroidered in letters of gold, *Nolumus leges Angliæ mutari*,—rode at the head of a troop of Noblemen and Gentlemen. The whole Cavalcade consisted of about eleven or twelve hundred horse. At Christ Church, the Princess was received by the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Doctors in their scarlet, the Vice Chancellor complimenting her in an English speech."[a]

In the first year of Her Reign (1702), Queen Anne came to Oxford, accompanied by Her Husband George, Prince of Denmark, and attended by Sir Philip Harcourt. They lodged in the Deanery at Christ Church, and were one day entertained by the University at a Banquet in the Theatre, at which also were present John, Duke, and Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. In 1704, the Queen, to testify Her sentiments of gratitude to the Duke, and affection for the Duchess of Marlborough, conveyed (with the sanction of Parliament), to his Grace and his heirs the Royal Manor and Honor of Woodstock, with the Hundred of Wootton, and afterwards ordered the present grand Palace[b] to be built, at the Royal expense, in memory of the Battle and Victory of Blenheim. The Act of Parliament granting the Estate contained a recapitulation of the unparalleled services performed by MARLBOROUGH not only to his own Sovereign and fellow

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(a) Aubrey's Letters Vol. 1 p. 51.

(b) Not the Vale
Of Tempe, fam'd in song, nor Ida's grove,
Such beauty boasts.
Lord Lyttleton's Blenheim.

Subjects

Subjects, but to all Europe. After the Queen's death however, in 1714, the Duke was left to pay a large sum in liquidation of the balance due for the building of the Palace.

To John, Duke of Marlborough had been committed, by universal consent, in succession to William the Third, the direction and management of the Continental Wars. And, on the Battle Field at Blenheim,—in spite of the political conflict of the rival factions at home,—his consummate skill, sound judgment, and noble daring, enabled him to address the following lines to his Duchess, written in pencil, on horseback, with a drum for a desk; and which identical pencil manuscript is still preserved, at Blenheim Palace. "13 August 1704. * * * * * I have not time to say more, but to beg you will give my duty to the Queen, and let Her know Her Army has had a glorious victory." At a crisis during the Battle of Ramilies, in May 1706, Marlborough, seeing the danger his Army was in, placed himself at the head of seventeen Squadrons, and dashed at the French Cavalry. Marlborough was observed, surrounded, and well nigh taken Prisoner; and, forcing his way, his horse fell, and, whilst his Grace was in the act of mounting another Charger, his Equerry, then holding the bridle, had his head shot off by a cannon ball. An irresistible and determined attack won the day; and Louis was compelled to sue for a temporary peace.

THE GEORGIAN ERA.

George the First honored the Earl of Cadogan with a visit at Caversham House. The Earl had taken down the former Mansion, and erected a new one on a site farther removed from the River Thames; and, in the new House, the Earl had built a Room, lined with cedar, specially for the reception of His Majesty.

This Reign being the next in succession to the last Sovereign of the House of Stuart, the Country was far from unanimous in welcoming, or paying hearty allegiance to the new Dynasty; and the following are the Names (recorded here not as any stigma, but merely as a matter of history), of Oxfordshire Land Owners who were Nonjurors; refusing to take the Oaths to King George.

NON

NON-JURORS.

FRANCES SMITH :—Estate at Newnham-Murren, in possession of Anne Creswell.

MAURICE BELSON :—Estate at Aston-Rowant, in possession of Peter Seamore.

MICHAEL BLOUNT, of Maple-Durham.

THOMAS PHILIPS, of Tetsworth.

CHARLES, Lord DORMER, of Swyncombe.

ELIZABETH WINSLOW :—Estate at Great Haseley, in possession of Thomas Reynolds.

JOHN AYLEWORTH :—Estate at St. Giles's, in possession of George Smith.

THOMAS STONOR, of Stonor, Esquire.

MATTHEW HASKEY, of Pyrton.

EDWARD WALLIS :—Estate at Berwick-Prior, in possession of the Widow Sanders.

Sir EDWARD SIMEON :—Estate at Bix, in possession of William Crook.

WILLIAM HOLMAN :—Estate at Mixbury, in possession of Thomas Grantham.

CHARLES TRINDER, of Broadwell, Esquire.

MARY HIDE :—Estate at Standlake, in possession of Richard Tuckeys.

HELLEN FERMOR, of Tusmore.

JOHN POWELL :—Estate at Sandford, in possession of Gregory Peck.

ROBOALDO FIESCHI :—Estate at Chinnor, in possession of John Dutton.

MARY FLATMAN, and FRANCES FLATMAN, spinsters.

THOMAS PARCELL :—Estate at Northnewington, in possession of Richard Banbury.

ROBERT KILBY, of Souldern.

MARY BALDWIN :—Estate at Hooknorton, in possession of Thomas Bedford.

APOLLONIA YATE :—Estate at Clanfield, in possession of —— Stephens.

JOHN DAY, of Dorchester.

EDWARD DAY, of ditto.

ELIZABETH CONQUEST, MARGARET BRENT, MARY BRENT, and FRANCES BRENT :—Estate at Banbury, in possession of —— Bayliffe.

WILLIAM DAVIE, of Overy, in the Parish of Dorchester.

ROBERT PRINCE, of Overy, in ditto.

THOMAS DAY :—Estate at Warborough, in possession of Moses Cox.

THOMAS KIMBER, of the Parish of Holywell, Oxford.

CHARLES FORTESCUE :—Estate at Idbury, &c., in possession of Robert Guy.

Sir JOHN CURZON, of Waterperry.

ALICIA COX :—Estate at Fritwell, in possession of Sir Edward Longuevelle.

HENRY BENNETT, of Souldern.

FRANCIS CURZON, of Waterperry.

JOHN SHARPE, of Sandford.

JAMES FERMOR, of Tusmore.

HENRY FERMOR, of ditto.

Sir ROBERT THROCKMORTON, of Bampton, Baronet.

ANNE CLEMENTS, of Bradford.

Sir CHARLES BROWN, of Kiddington, Baronet.

Dame FRANCES BROWN, of ditto.

RALPH SHELDON, Esq. :—Estate at Sibford, Steeple-Barton, in possession of Edward Mitchell, *et al.*

Sir JOHN WEBB :—Estate at Shipton, in possession of Hannah Whiting.

ANNE LYTCOTTE :—Estate at Banbury, in possession of —— Bayliffe.

CHARLES GREENWOOD, of Brise-Norton, Esquire.

MARGARET

MARGARET FETTIPLACE :—An Annuity out of Swyncombe.

FRANCES CHAPMAN :—Estate at Aston, in possession of Thomas Sparrow-Hawk.

BENEDICT HALL :—Estate at Berrick-Salome, in possession of John Avery.

In Oxford and Oxfordshire very strong feelings in favour of the Stuart Family long prevailed ; and there were great Jacobite Riots in Oxford in the year of the Accession of King George. The Hanoverian Party (the Whigs), on the other hand, formed a "Constitution Club;" and the Grand Jury at an Assizes presented the Members of the Club as a set of factious Men "who, shrouding themselves under the specious name of the Constitution Club, were Enemies to Monarchy and all good Government, and had been the Authors of all the tumults and discord that had happened in the City or County of Oxford." So disloyal was a great Party in the University and City that, at length, Dragoons were sent to Oxford, headed by General Pepper ; and Martial Law was proclaimed. The Wits of Oxford met this affront with the following epigram.

"King George, observing with judicious eyes
The state of both His Universities,
To Oxford sent a Troop of horse ; and why ?
That learned Body wanted Loyalty.
To Cambridge, Books He sent, as well discerning
How much that loyal Body wanted Learning."

This elicited the following Reply from the pen of Sir William Browne of Cambridge.

"The King to Oxford sent a Troop of horse,
For Tories own no argument but force.
With equal skill to Cambridge, Books He sent,
For Whigs admit no force but argument."

The Books alluded to were 30,000 volumes of Bishop Moore's Library which the Crown had purchased, at Lord Townshend's suggestion.

George the First does not appear to have further identified Himself with the University of Oxford. His inability to write or speak our Language interposed to prevent much sympathy with English Institutions or customs.[a]

George the Second, like his Father, displayed a great preference for Hanover, and we are unable to connect Him personally with Oxfordshire or the University, farther than that he honored with his confidence and friendship Baron Schutz of Shotover House, and several times visited there. The State Rooms, adorned with Tapestry, which were prepared for the King's reception,—are familiar to all acquainted with the House. His Queen (Caroline) however, contributed a large sum, in 1733, towards the completion of the new Buildings of Queen's College. And Her Statue was placed, where it still is, in the Cupola of the front Entrance to the College.

In 1739, Frederick Prince of Wales (Father of George the Third), and his Princess paid a visit to Lord North and Guilford, at Wroxton Abbey. And the Obelisk in Wroxton Park was erected, at the Prince's command, to commemorate this Royal Visit, with the following inscription.

FREDERICUS
WALLIÆ PRINCEPS
OPTIMUS MUNIFICENTISSIMUS
A
SERVO SUO
FRANCISCO
DOMINO NORTH ET GUILFORD
WROXTONIÆ HOSPITIO EXCEPTUS
IN
AMOENITATIS INCREMENTUM
ET
ADVENTUS SUI MEMORIAM
OBELISCUM HUNC EXTRUI JUSSIT
MENSE SEPTEMBR MDCCXXXIX.

With the Accession of George the Third to the Throne, Jacobitism disappeared from Oxfordshire and Oxford like a passing dream.

(a) In consequence of the King's ignorance of the Language, the customary presence of the Sovereign at Meetings of the Cabinet Council was dispensed with. And the absence of the Crown has since become a rule of State.

His

His Majesty was, at different periods of His life, a frequent Visitor at Nuneham Park, being much attached successively to George Simon, Earl Harcourt, and to his Brother William, Earl Harcourt, each of whom was Master of the Horse to the Queen.

The King and Queen (with the Princes Ernest Augustus, and Adolphus Frederick, the Princess Royal, and the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth), came from Nuneham to Oxford on the 17th September 1785. This was the King's first visit to Oxford. The Royal Party, accompanied by the Earl and Countess Harcourt, entered the City in five Carriages, and, driving through Merton Fields to Christ Church, attended Morning Prayers at the Cathedral. After inspecting Christ Church, they were waited upon at Corpus by the Vice Chancellor (Dr. Dennis, President of Saint John's College), preceded by the Bedels with their Staves inverted, and were afterwards conducted over the principal Buildings of the University. The King then repaired to the Council Chamber, and conferred the honour of Knighthood upon the Mayor (Sir John Treacher), and all the Members of the Corporation kissed hands. The Bells rang incessantly from the arrival of the Royal Family till their departure, and at night the City was grandly illuminated.

The King and Queen, and three Princesses honored Lord Harcourt with a Visit in August 1786, and, on the 18th, came to Oxford, and were received at the Gate of the Schools by the Vice Chancellor, the Duke of Marlborough, and Heads of Colleges &c. and escorted to the Theatre, where an Address was presented. Afterwards the City had the honor of presenting an Address at the Council Chamber, when the King knighted the senior Alderman, Sir Richard Tawney, (the Mayor humbly declining the dignity).

His Majesty and the Queen also honored Blenheim with visits; and they were once entertained, with much state, at Shirburn Castle, by George, Earl of Macclesfield, who long held Offices at Court.

Queen Charlotte contributed a large sum, in 1778, towards the cost of rebuilding a wing of Queen's College which had been destroyed by fire.

George the Fourth, when Prince Regent, paid Visits to the Earl of Guilford at Wroxton Abbey in 1805, 1806, and 1808.

The

The Obelisk in Wroxton Park bears the following inscription with reference to the first of these visits :

GEORGIUS
WALLIÆ PRINCEPS
FREDERICI NEPOS
AVI VIRTUTIBUS ORNATUS
HOSPITIUM
SIBI
A FRANCISCO COMITE DE GUILFORD
FRANCISCI NEPOTE
WROXTONIÆ RENOVATUM
HUIC OBELISCO
INSCRIBI VOLUIT
MENSE JUNII
MDCCCV.

On the second occasion of the Prince's visit to Wroxton, in 1806, His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William the Fourth. And, in 1810, the Prince Regent presented to the University of Oxford certain literary Treasures from Herculaneum, given to Him by the King of Sicily. In June 1814 the Prince Regent visited Oxford for some days, with the Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia, attended by a great many English and Foreign Noblemen, and Ministers of State. The Prince Regent lodged at the Deanery at Christ Church ; the Emperor of Russia at Merton College ; and the King of Prussia at Corpus College. The University entertained them royally at a Banquet in the Radcliffe Library ; the Warden and Fellows of All Souls' College at a grand Collation in their College Library ; and the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church at a banquet in Christ Church Hall. The Prince Regent, on different occasions, but especially at the Banquet in Christ Church Hall,—displayed His polite knowledge of Foreign Languages by interpreting the Speeches of Prince Blucher, and otherwise. The details and Ceremonials of this memorable Royal Visit were admirably recorded, and have been handed down to Posterity, in a Book published at the time by the University, from the pen of Bishop Parsons (Master of Balliol College), who was regarded as the best English Writer of his day in Oxford.

The City of Oxford most creditably bore its share in the demonstrations of Loyalty evinced at this Royal Visit, and the

Prince

Prince Regent upon one occasion, in the Council Chamber, conferred the honour of knighthood upon the Mayor, Sir Joseph Lock, and the Town Clerk, Sir William Elias Taunton.

William the Fourth does not appear to have paid any Regal Visit in the County, or to Oxford. But Queen Adelaide, in October 1835, came to Oxford, and remained some days. A grand Reception was given to the Queen in the Theatre, and She held a Drawing Room and Levees at the Angel Hotel. The Queen visited the Bodleian Library and the University Buildings generally, (accompanied by the Duke of Wellington, as Chancellor of the University); and Her Majesty paid especial attention to Queen's College, as being peculiarly under the patronage of Queens-Consort ever since Queen Philippa's time.

VICTORIA.

Her Majesty, whilst Princess, first visited Oxford, (accompanied by the Duchess of Kent), in November 1832, and was entertained by the Earl of Abingdon at Wytham. Some Macaronic Verses (said to be from the pen of the Right Honorable Robert Lowe, then a Commoner of University College, and which have gone through several subsequent editions), commemorated this Royal Visit. They commence with the following Stanza.

> Dicite præclarum, Musæ, mihi dicite Kentæ
> Duchessam, Princessque simul Victoria nostro
> Singatur versu, Conroianusque triumphus,
> Et quàm shoutârunt Undergraduates atque Magistri,
> Et quantum dederit Vice-Chancellor ipse refreshment.

The Royal Party were presented, in the Theatre, with an Address from the University, and afterwards fêted in University College. The Princess, on this occasion, paid Visits to the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim Palace, and to the late Archbishop Harcourt at Nuneham Park.

In June 1841, the Queen, and Albert the Prince Consort visited the Archbishop of York at Nuneham, when the Prince came to Oxford for a day, and was present in the Theatre at the Commemoration,—the Duke of Wellington presiding as Chancellor. The Prince Consort, with his Suite, and the

Chancellor

Chancellor were afterwards splendidly entertained at Saint John's College,—the Reverend Dr. Wynter, the President, being the Vice Chancellor. In the Evening the Queen held a Levee at Nuneham, which was attended by the Vice Chancellor and the Heads of Houses. On the following day the Prince Consort visited the Duke of Marlborough, at Blenheim Palace.

In December 1860, the Queen came (but not in State), to Oxford, accompanied by the Prince Consort, to see the Prince of Wales, then in residence at Frewen Hall.

Her Majesty has ever shown a tender care for the University, and manifested a constant interest in its prosperity and welfare.

Also, the PRINCE CONSORT visited Oxford in June 1856, and again in January 1857 (at the latter date in company with his three eldest Children). On the former occasion, the Prince Consort was present at the granting of Degrees in the Theatre, under the auspices of the Earl of Derby, the Chancellor. The Prince of Baden, and the Prince of Prussia were amongst those who received Degrees.

His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, to the unmitigated sorrow of all, died, at Windsor Castle, on the 14th of December 1861. His services to the Land of his adoption, and the interest which he took in every good and humanising project, made him the centre of our social system, and earned for him the enduring title of ALBERT THE GOOD. He was also a Counsellor of the rarest value to Her Majesty, in all emergencies.

"God bless Thee, weeping Queen,
With Blessing more divine;
And fill with better Love than Earth's,
That tender heart of Thine;
That, when the Thrones of Earth shall be,
As low as graves brought down,
A pierced hand may give to Thee
The Crown which Angels shout to see:—
Thou wilt not *weep*
To wear that Heavenly Crown."

ALBERT EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES was admitted an Undergraduate Member of Christ Church, Oxford, on the 18th of October 1859. He occupied Frewen Hall, a private Mansion in the City, and resided there, with a Retinue, for upwards of a year; diligently pursuing his Studiès, attending, with marked regularity, College Chapel at the Cathedral, and otherwise

observing

observing the discipline of the University, in an exemplary manner. So strict was the Prince in maintaining Academical order in his own Person, that he uniformly refused the invitations of the Nobility, with the exception of successive gatherings at Blenheim, where, each time, he was magnificently entertained ;—occasional morning visits to the Earl and Countess of Macclesfield at Shirburn Castle ; and honoring the Bishop of Oxford at dinner parties at Cuddesdon Palace ; besides being the frequent and friendly Guest of Dean and Mrs. Liddell at Christ Church. "During the five or six Terms of his Residence, the young Prince gained golden opinions by his easy, unaffected bearing, and took with him, at his departure, the loyal good wishes of all Oxford, University and City." *G. V. Cox's Recollections of Oxford, p.* 426.

The Crown Prince of Denmark (Brother of the Princess of Wales), was entered a Member of Christ Church, on the 20th of October 1863, and he came to reside in Oxford, under the Reverend George William Kitchin, as his Royal Highness' Tutor ; but the unexpected death of the King of Denmark, upon which event the young Prince's Father succeeded to the Throne, precipitated His Royal Highness' return to his native Country. The complications following upon this Accession,—resulting very shortly in a War with Prussia,—effectually prevented the Crown Prince returning to Oxford.

To commemorate the association of the two Princes with Christ Church, the Venerable Archdeacon Clerke, Sub-Dean, has placed, in one of the noble windows of the Hall, their several Armorial bearings, in stained glass, (executed by Powell) ; those of the Prince of Wales representing severally his Arms in respect of the Principality ; as Duke of Saxony ; Prince of Coburg Gotha ; Duke of Cornwall ; Earl of Chester, Carrick, and Dublin, Baron of Renfrew, and Lord of the Isles.

VIVAT REGINA !

The

The Compiler is sensible that, in the foregoing pages, he has been betrayed into details of the casual connexion only, of certain Sovereigns and Princes with Oxfordshire, not justified by the heading of the Paper; which he desires to conclude with the remark that down to the time of Windsor Castle being rebuilt by Edward the Third, the County of Oxford was eminently *the Royal County*;—a title in which Berkshire has, since that date, justly prided itself.

JUDGES OF THE LAND.

JUDGES OF THE LAND,

WHOSE COUNTY WAS OXFORDSHIRE, EITHER NATIVE OR ADOPTED.

To publish a complete list of the Celebrities of Oxfordshire is not our purpose, and would be a difficult, and perhaps invidious task. The subjoined Names therefore, have been confined to such Oxfordshire Persons as have attained Judicial Eminence in the Kingdom; and the preparation of the List has been as much facilitated by the learned biographical Works of LORD CAMPBELL, and MR. FOSS, as the pleasant labour has been diminished by the feeling that the Roll is an honor to the County.

If any Reader should premise that by limiting the List to those who have been raised to the Judicial Bench, Oxfordshire is not rich in Names otherwise celebrated, that assumption would be dispelled upon mentioning, as Natives of the County, LYDIAT,[a] the Mathematician and Astronomer, HEYLIN, the Divine and Cosmographical Writer, SIR THOMAS POPE, the Founder of Trinity College, ANTHONY WOOD, the Biographer and Antiquarian, SIR GEORGE ETHEREGE, the Comic Writer, PHILIPS, the Poet, SIR WILLIAM DAVENANT,[b] the Dramatic Writer, EDWARD POCOCK,[c] the Divine and Oriental Scholar, BISHOP COOPER, the learned Divine, and DR. GEORGE ETHERIDGE, the Mathematician and Greek Professor, among

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(a) "If dreams get flattered, once again attend,
Hear Lydiat's life, and Galileo's end."

Johnson's Vanity of Human Wishes.

(b) His Father kept the Crown Inn, in Corn Market Street, Oxford, where SHAKSPEARE used to stop on his journeys from Stratford on Avon to London, and Sir William Davenant was Shakspeare's Godchild.

(c) "Cujus si nomen audias, nihil hic de famâ desideres," is the commencement of the Inscription on his Monument in Christ Church Cathedral, where he was buried.

others who have been rewarded with the honors of fame,—for whose absence from this record the incompetency of the Author must alone account.

It may be further remarked that such Judges of the Land as may be claimed by Oxfordshire proper, have alone been included in the List, whereas had the enumeration extended to those who were temporarily resident within the County territorially, during their education at the University, the List would have been adorned with such Luminaries of the Law as, (amongst others), SIR THOMAS MORE, SELDEN, SIR MATTHEW HALE, MANSFIELD, BLACKSTONE, STOWELL, ELDON, TENTERDEN, WESTBURY, and COLERIDGE. To which List may be added LELAND's review of some of the learned Men of the University in his time (Henry the VIIIth's Reign).

Lumina doctrinæ, GROCINUS deinde secutus,
SELLINGUS, LINACER, LATIMARUSQUE pius.
DUNSTALLUS, PHŒNIX, STOCLEUS atque COLETUS,
LILIUS et PACEUS, festa corona virum.
Omnes Italiam petierunt sidere fausto:
Et nituit Latiis musa Britanna Scholis.
Omnes inque suam patriam rediere diserti,
Secum thesauros et retulere suos.

"When it is recollected that the Judges of the Land are, by the nature of their Office, in some respect the Representatives of Majesty, presiding in the Judgment-Seat, and traversing the Country in all the pomp and circumstance of their position, interpreting the Laws and administering Justice in the presence of multitudes; that the highest Constitutional questions, as well as the minutest civil rights, are subject to their decision; that many of them have, from the most humble origin, been raised to their high station by their own industry, abilities, and character, selected from the *èlite* of a most arduous and honorable Profession; that every judicial act they perform, every opinion they offer, and every word they utter, is subject to the observation of their Contemporaries, equally educated, and many of them equally competent to form a judgment; and that their intercourse on the Circuits is not confined to their legal Brethren, but extends over the highest and most intelligent branches of the Community;—it seems only a natural consequence that the rise and progress, the

conduct

"conduct and the character, the lineage and descendants of those who have pursued such a career, should abound with interest to all classes of Society, as well those who are partakers in the benefits and are conversant with the history of their Country's Institutions, as those who are prosecuting the same studies and aspiring to similar honours." *Foss' Judges of England, Vol.* 1 *p.* 10 *of Introduction.*

REIGN OF WILLIAM THE SECOND.

1087–1100.

Robert Bloet, Lord Chancellor, 1090.

The precise place of his birth is uncertain. He retired from the Chancellorship upon his appointment to the Bishopric of Lincoln, being the second Bishop after the removal of the See from Dorchester, Oxfordshire.

REIGN OF HENRY THE FIRST.

1100–1135.

The same Robert Bloet is styled during this Reign *Justiciarius totius Angliæ*, or Chief Justiciary.

In that Office he would rank next to the King in the *Curia Regis*. He would preside in all Criminal and Civil causes, and would have the principal management of the Royal revenue,—and, in the absence of the King, the entire government of the State would be entrusted to him as Regent.

He was seized with a fit of apoplexy when hunting with the King at Woodstock, and fell from his horse and died on 10 January 1123. His body was buried at Lincoln, and his bowels were interred at Eynsham, where he had restored the Monastery.

Herbert Losinga, Chancellor, 1104.

It may be questionable whether this Chancellor can be justly claimed as a Native of the County. The place of his birth is given as "*in pago Oxunensi*," which, by a dubious interpretation, has been recorded as at Oxford.

He was Bishop of Thetford and Norwich, and he died 22 July 1119.

REIGN

REIGN OF STEPHEN.

1135–54.

Alexander, Chancellor, 1135.

He built the Castle of Banbury, and founded the Abbeys of Dorchester and Thame.

He was Bishop of Lincoln for 24 years.

REIGN OF HENRY THE SECOND.

1154–89.

Alardus Banastre, Justice Itinerant, 1174.

He was Sheriff of the County of Oxford in 1174 and 1175, an Office which his Father held during the four preceding years.

The functions of the Justices Itinerant, as the designation of the Office implies, were to traverse the Country to hear Pleas of the Crown and Common Pleas, and to impose the Assizes and tallages upon the King's demesnes;—in distinction to the Chief Justiciary, and his subordinate Justiciars, who were appointed to sit in the *Curia Regis*, or Exchequer, at Westminster.

Thomas Basset, Justice Itinerant, 1168. Justiciar, 1175.

In recognition of his military services the King granted to him the Lordship of Headington, together with the Hundred of Bullingdon, and the Hundred lying without the North Gate of the City of Oxford.

Sheriff of the County in 1163, and in 1175 he was appointed to act judicially in the *Curia Regis*.

The Priory of Bicester was founded by his Son, Gilbert.

Constantius de Oxford, Justice Itinerant, 1174.

He was probably a Priest of the City of Oxford, as it was not unusual for Ecclesiastical Persons to cast off their family name and adopt that of the place where they exercised their religious duties.

Alan de Furnellis, Justiciar, 1179.

Sheriff of the County, 1184–1186.

Geoffrey Hose, Justice Itinerant, 1179.

Sheriff of the County 1179–81.

He

He was appointed a Justice Itinerant, in conjunction with the above mentioned Alardus Banastre, to assess the tallage on the County.

John de Oxford, Chief Justiciary, 1179.

The Son of a Burgess of the City of Oxford, where he was born. Before performing any judicial duties he was successively Chaplain to the King, Dean of Salisbury, and Bishop of Norwich.

REIGN OF HENRY THE THIRD.

1216–1272.

Robert de Aumari, Justiciar, 1216.

In 1225 he was one of the Justices Itinerant for the County, and was appointed in the following year to collect the quinzisme of the County; and, as a reward for his assiduity in performing that duty, a fine was remitted which he owed for permission to plough up his property at Woodpery.

He was Undersheriff of the County during the Shrievalty of Thomas Basset in 1207, and, his descendant, Richard de Aumari, or D'Amary, of Blechingdon, was Sheriff in 1308.

Alan Basset, Justiciar, 1217.

The third Son of the before mentioned Thomas Basset, of Headington. He was a personal favourite of the King, (Henry the Third), and was possessed of much property in the County. He died in October 1232.

Philip Basset, Chief Justiciary, 1261.

The name of Basset frequently occurs in connection with the administration of justice. Philip was the third Son of the last mentioned Alan Basset. He was made Governor of Oxford Castle, and also of Shirburn Castle. He was appointed Chief Justiciary in England in place of Hugh le Despenser who was dismissed by the King, but who, being supported by the Barons in maintaining that his functions had not ceased, waged war against his appointed Successor, and succeeded in burning his House and ravaging his property.

THOMAS BASSET, Justiciar, 1262.

Another of the same Family, being a grandson of Thomas Basset of Headington, and Nephew of Alan Basset.

ROBERT DE BEAUCHAMP, Justiciar, 1234.

Constable of Oxford Castle. He had the charge of the Manor and Park of Woodstock. The last trace of his judicial life is in 1242.

FALCO DE BREAUTEÉ, Justice Itinerant, 1219.

The record of his judicial acts does not equal that of his military deeds, for he is spoken of as a valiant Soldier to whom the victory at Lincoln was due. He had the custody of Oxford Castle, and was Sheriff of the County from 1216 to 1223.

WILLIAM BRIEWERE, Justiciar, 1217.

He was first appointed a Justice Itinerant in 1187, and he acted in that Office throughout the reign of Richard the First, and in 1221 we find him mentioned as a Baron of the Exchequer. He was closely associated with four successive Kings.

Sheriff of the County from 1191 till 1194, and also twice in the Reign of John.

WALTER FOLIOT, Justice Itinerant, 1218.

A native of Berkshire, but Sheriff of the County of Oxford in 1224 and 1225. He was possessed of Land in Oxfordshire granted to him by King John.

GEOFFREY GIBBEWIN, Justiciar, 1219.

He had land at Bix, (still called Bix Gibwen, in contradistinction to Bix Brand), the corn of which he gave to the Monks of Thame. His judicial acts were very few.

WALTER GIFFARD, Lord Chancellor, 1265.

He was resident with his Mother, Sibille, in Oxford Castle, by permission of Henry the Third. He became Canon and afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells, and in October 1266 he was translated to the Archbishopric of York, when he resigned the Great Seal.

John de Plessitis, Justice Itinerant, 1251.

Held the Title of Earl of Warwick for his life. He was named second among six Justices assigned to hold pleas for the City of London in 1251. Sheriff of the County of Oxford in 1239, and the possessor of the Manors of Kidlington and Hook Norton, in right of his wife, Margery, the Sister and heir of the Earl of Warwick.

John de St. John. Justice Itinerant, 1225.

He held the Barony of Stanton Saint John, which Parish takes its distinctive name from his Family. In 1225 he was appointed a Justice Itinerant for this County, an Office which he held for five years.

Alexander de Swerford, Baron of Exchequer, 1234.

His name is derived from the Parish of Swerford in this County, where he was Vicar, and also, upon the presentation of the Abbot of Osney, Rector. He was much associated with the Bishop of Coventry as his private Chaplain, and in 1234 he was assigned the rank of a Baron in the Exchequer, in which Court he had previously been a Clerk.

REIGN OF EDWARD THE FIRST.

1272–1307.

Roger de Bello Fago, Justice Itinerant, 1305.

Resident in Oxfordshire. A Justice for Warwickshire, and subsequently for Cornwall, and nine other Counties. Appointed a Commissioner to survey the obstructions of the River Thames from London to Oxford.

REIGN OF EDWARD THE THIRD.

1327–1377.

Ralph de Bereford, Justice Itinerant, 1329.

He possessed property at Bourton, Milcomb, and Barford, in Oxfordshire, from which last place, (also called Bereford), his Family derived their name.

John de Stonor, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, 1320.

A lineal Ancestor of the ancient Family of Stonor in this County, now represented by my Lord Camoys. The Chief Justice was a distinguished Advocate during the reign of Edward the Second, and is frequently mentioned as engaged in prosecutions and defences on behalf of the King. He was appointed a Justice of the Common Pleas in 1320, and became a Judge of great note. In 1327, shortly after his re-appointment as Justice of the Common Pleas by Edward the Third, he was sent to Oxford with four other Justices to try some riotous Members of the University who had joined with the Inhabitants of Abingdon in committing an outrage on the Abbey of St. Mary, there. He received promotion to the rank of Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1329, and, in the same year, to that of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. He died in 1354, and the Abbot and Convent of Dorchester granted him the especial right of sepulture in their Church, where there is an effigy of him in Judges' Robes. The arms represented on the Tomb are the same as those now borne by his descendant, Lord Camoys.

James de Wodestoke, Justice of Common Pleas, 1340.

Born at Woodstock, whence he took his name. Before he was seated on the Bench he was employed to raise money for the King in Oxfordshire. The Manor of Brize Norton belonged to him. He died soon after his appointment as Judge.

REIGN OF HENRY THE SIXTH.

1422–61.

Sir John Cottesmore, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1429.
Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, 1439.

Baldwin Brightwell was the Seat of this Judge and his Family. He was also connected with the County of Oxford by his marrying Florence, the daughter of Sir Simon Harcourt, of Stanton Harcourt, who was knighted for his bravery at the sieges of Terouenne and Tournay, and at "the Battle of Spurs" in 1513. Sir John Cottesmore was raised to the Bench as a Justice of the Common Pleas in October 1429, and, after sitting in that Court for ten years, he was promoted to preside there as Chief

Justice

Justice in 1439. He died on the 3rd of September 1439, and was buried in Baldwin Brightwell Church. The following lines, extracted from the monumental Brass there, give an eulogistic description of his character:

"Solvitur in cineres Cottesmore namque Johannes,
Communis sectis Judex quondam Capitalis.
Justiciam coluit, rebus fuit omnibus æquus,
Juribus ecclesiæ favit super omnia sanctæ,
Discutiens causas mira gravitate forenses,
Quem nec amor, nec opes, timor, aut odium superavit."

REIGN OF EDWARD THE FOURTH.

1461–83.

Sir Robert Danvers, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1450.

The Ancestors of this Family had considerable property in the County. Sir Robert was the eldest Son of John Danvers, of Cokethorpe, by his first Wife, Alice Verney, and married Agnes, the daughter of Richard Quartermaine, of Rycot. He sat as a Judge of the Common Pleas from the date of his appointment, (14 August 1450), during the previous Reign until his death in 1468, having been re-appointed on the accession of Edward the 4th.

REIGN OF HENRY THE SEVENTH.

1485–1509.

William Danvers, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1488.

He was the half Brother of the last mentioned Judge, Sir Robert Danvers, being the Son of John Danvers of Cokethorpe by his second Wife, Joan, the daughter of William Bruly of Waterstock. He was promoted to the Judicial Bench soon after he attained the degree of Serjeant at Law.

REIGN OF HENRY THE EIGHTH.

1509–47.

Robert Brudenell, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, 1521.

An Ancestor of this Judge, Edmund Brudenell, attained to legal eminence as Attorney General to Richard the Second;—and he and the present Judge, Robert Brudenell, proceed from an ancient Family which was established at Deddington. Robert Brudenell was first promoted to the Judicial rank in the Court of King's Bench in 1507, and, on the accession of Henry the 8th, he was transferred to the Common Pleas, where he sat for twelve years, and where he presided, until his death, for a further period of ten years after his appointment as Chief Justice in 1521.

John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, 1535.

He was the Son of an Ancestor of Lord Dormer, and was possessed of several Manors and Farms in Oxfordshire.

REIGN OF JAMES THE FIRST.

1603–25.

Sir Laurence Tanfield, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1607.

Resident at Burford Priory, and the Owner of the Manor of Great Tew, and other property in the County.

After a successful career at the Bar, he was promoted from the rank of Serjeant at Law to be a Judge of the King's Bench, in January 1606, and on 25 June of the following year, he was appointed to preside over the Court of Exchequer as Chief Baron, and he fulfilled the duties of that office until his death on 30 April 1625. A costly Monument on the north side of the Chancel in Burford Church, where he was buried, commemorates his death.

He was the Father in law of the celebrated Lord Falkland, to whom (when Sir Henry Cary) his only daughter was married.

Sir David Williams, Justice of the King's Bench, 1604.

He was possessed of the Manors of Shifford and Golofers, and Lands at Hams Court in the Parish of Bampton; and he purchased the Cokethorpe Estate.

Sir

Sir Thomas Coventry, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1606.
He was Son of Richard Coventry Esquire of Cassington, Oxfordshire.

Sir John Croke, Justice of the King's Bench, 1607.
Eldest Son of Sir John Croke of Studley Priory, who married the daughter of Sir Alexander Unton, and represented the County of Buckingham in Parliament. His Wife was Catherine the daughter of Sir Michael Blount, of Maple Durham. The present Judge was conspicuous for his legal knowledge and ability as an Advocate, and was eminent on the Judicial Bench during a period of thirteen years. After performing the successive duties of Recorder of London, and Member of Parliament for that City and Windsor, he was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench in June 1607, and continued in that Office until his death in January 1620. He was buried at Chilton, in Buckinghamshire, with many Ancestors of his Family.

REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST.
1625–49.

Sir George Croke, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1625.
Brother of the last mentioned Judge. Before entering at Christ Church, Oxford, he had been educated at the Grammar School at Thame. The well deserved reputation he had for profound learning, and accurate reporting in the Law Courts during the reigns of Elizabeth and James, procured his elevation to the Bench on 11 February 1625. King James died six weeks after his appointment as Justice of the Common Pleas, but Charles the First renewed his appointment, on His accession, and in October 1628 transferred him to the King's Bench, where he sat for twelve years. It is memorable that Sir George Croke conscientiously decided with a minority of Judges against the Crown and in favour of Hampden in the great case of the Ship money. In 1615 he purchased the Estate of Waterstock (now possessed by John Henry Ashhurst Esquire), and six years later he purchased Studley Priory of John Croke, the Son of the last mentioned Judge. He died at Waterstock on 16 February

1641, an Octogenarian, having spent many years of his life there, and a handsome monument was erected to his memory in the Church.

Sir John Walter, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1625.

Resident at Godstow, in Oxfordshire, in a House which was destroyed in the lifetime of this Judge, to prevent it, in the Civil Wars, falling into the hands of the Rebels. He was also resident at Sarsden in this County. Having been educated at Brasenose College, he was selected for the distinguished post of Counsel to the University of Oxford, and, in 1619, he was appointed Attorney General to Prince Charles, and the order of Knighthood conferred upon him. On 12 May 1625 he was promoted to fill the place of Sir Laurence Tanfield, as Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He appears to have discharged the duties of that post for five years, when, in consequence of some unaccountable offence taken by the King, he was prohibited from sitting as Judge, and, his protests unavailing, he retired from judicial life. He was buried at Woolvercot, Oxfordshire, where an elaborate monument was erected to him and his two Wives.

Sir James Whitelock, Justice of the King's Bench, 1624.

Although in strictness this Judge cannot be claimed either as a Native of or a resident in Oxfordshire, it may be pardonable to include him in this List, when we are reminded of his associations with the County, of his intimate connection with both the above mentioned Judges Croke, and of his Estate of Fawley Court being partly, and altogether practically, in Oxfordshire.

Sir James Whitelock graduated at Saint John's College, Oxford, of which Society he became a Fellow, and he long resided in College. He represented the Borough of Woodstock in Parliament in 1609, and again in 1614, and 1621, having previously been elected Recorder. He was appointed a Justice of the King's Bench on 18 October 1624, and performed the duties of that Office until his death, which took place at his Mansion at Fawley Court on 22 June 1632.

PERIOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

1649–60.

Nathaniel Fiennes, Commissioner of the Great Seal, 1656.

Colonel Nathaniel Fiennes was the second Son of William, Lord Saye and Sele, and was born at Broughton in 1608. He represented Banbury in Parliament in 1640, Oxfordshire in 1654, and the University of Oxford in 1656. He held the rank of Colonel in the Parliamentary Army, but his character and reputation are not unstained. However, it is not on account of his military notoriety that he is mentioned here, but as a person to whom Oliver Cromwell entrusted the Great Seal on 15 June 1656, and in the custody of which he was re-instated by the Protector, Richard Cromwell, after Oliver's death. He retained the post of Lord Commissioner until the Long Parliament.

Sir William Lenthall, Master of the Rolls, 1649.

The fame of Sir William Lenthall is rather parliamentary then judicial. Although he filled the Office of Master of the Rolls during the whole period from the death of Charles the First to the Restoration of Charles the Second, he is better known to posterity as Speaker Lenthall.

He was born in June 1591 at his Father's House at Henley on Thames, and, having received the early part of his education at Thame School, he was sent to St. Alban Hall, Oxford, which he left in 1609 for the legal training of Lincoln's Inn, without graduating at Oxford.

In 1639 he represented Woodstock in Parliament, having been previously Recorder of that Borough, which honorable office his descendant Frank Kyffin Lenthall Esquire now (1869) holds. In the Parliament of 1640 he was chosen Speaker, an Office which Cromwell forcibly compelled him to vacate in April 1653, but to which he was re-elected in September 1654, when he was returned as Member for the County of Oxford. He again represented Oxfordshire in the next Parliament of 1656, when he played a conspicuous part in endeavouring by plausible arguments to induce Cromwell to assume the title of King. He sat in the upper House under the title of William, Lord Lenthall, in the Parliament summoned by the Protector Richard Cromwell, but soon returned to the Chair of the Speaker. He was Keeper

of

of the Great Seal for a short time. He died at his Residence, Burford Priory, Oxfordshire, on 1st September 1661, and was buried at Burford. For some further history of the Lenthall Family the Reader is referred to a List of the Sheriffs of Oxfordshire compiled by Mr. John M. Davenport, in 1868.

Bulstrode Whitelock, Commissioner of the Great Seal, 1648.

The only Son of Sir James Whitelock, and a Great Nephew of Sir George Croke, both of whom have been previously noticed in this list of Judges.

Bulstrode Whitelock was High Steward, and Recorder of Oxford, and, as he is hereafter referred to as Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of Oxfordshire, a merely brief allusion will be here made to the judicial functions of this celebrated man. The extensive success of his career as an Advocate on Circuit, and in the Common Law Courts, was greatly impeded by the disturbances of the Civil War when he himself commanded a troop of Horse and was Governor of the Garrison at his own residence of Phillis Court, Henley. His industry as a Lawyer, and his parliamentary labours were rewarded by the two Houses selecting him as a Commissioner of the Great Seal in March 1648, an appointment which he continued to hold during the Protectorship of Oliver Cromwell until 1656, and to which he was re-appointed, in conjunction with Colonel Nathaniel Fiennes, on 22 January 1659, for the short period of four months. However, on the second expulsion of the Long Parliament, 1 November 1659, Bulstrode Whitelock was nominated the sole Keeper of the Great Seal, and maintained his position until the Parliament met again.

He died on 28 January 1676, having long retired from political life, and was buried at Fawley. Historians are greatly indebted to him for the incidents and details recorded in his autobiographic Memorials.

REIGN OF CHARLES THE SECOND.

1649–85.

Sir William Scroggs, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1676. Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1678.

The history of Sir William Scroggs' career presents no unusual example of the infamous ignorance and arrogance of the Judges of this Reign. He was born at Deddington in this County, where his Father was in business. Many calumnious accusations have been made against his low origin, but, however humble his Father's occupation may have been, he was in a position to send his Son to the University, for the future Judge graduated at Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1640. He was promoted to a Seat on the Bench of the Common Pleas on 23 October 1676, and in May 1678 he succeeded Sir Richard Rainsford as Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and the disreputable partiality and brutal effrontery of which he was guilty in performing the judicial functions of that Office, reflect great dishonor on his character. He was removed from the Bench by Charles the Second in April 1681, and died in October 1683, leaving a distinguished Family.

Sir William Morton, Justice of the King's Bench, 1665.

He married Annie, Daughter of John Smyth of Kidlington, Oxfordshire. He erected Almshouses at Kidlington to the memory of his Wife. Died 1672.

Francis, first Baron Guilford, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.(a)

Lord Guilford was one of the great Law Luminaries of England. He was of noble birth,—the Founder of his family, Edward North, a Serjeant at Law, having been created a Baron by writ in the Reign of Henry the Eighth; and the Lord Keeper was the second Son of the Honorable Dudley North who, late in life, became the fourth Baron North. Mr. Francis North was born in 1637; called to the Bar in 1661; appointed Solicitor General in 1671; elected Member of Parliament for Lynn in

(a) By virtue of the Statute 5th Elizabeth cap. 18 the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal had "the same place, pre-eminence, and jurisdiction as the Lord Chancellor of England."

1673; made Attorney General in the same year; in 1675 was raised to the Office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; and in 1682 received the Great Seal from Charles the Second, (upon the Death of Lord Nottingham), and in the following year, was created Baron Guilford. "He applied himself very assiduously to the business of the Court of Chancery."[a] Upon the death of Charles the Second in February 1685, Lord Guilford was retained as Lord Keeper by James the Second, but in July of that year he retired, in ill health, to Wroxton Abbey (which he had acquired in right of his Wife, and where he had long spent his Vacations), and died there in the following September, and was buried with great pomp in Wroxton Church.

REIGN OF JAMES THE SECOND.

1685-88.

Sir Richard Holloway, Justice of the King's Bench, 1683.

Anthony Wood describes this Judge as "living against the Blew-bore in St. Aldate's Parish, Oxford," and as the Son of John Holloway "a covetous civilian, and public Notary" there. As a Barrister he practised in Oxford, the City of his birth, and little was known of him in the Superior Courts. He was raised to a Seat in the King's Bench in September 1683, and bore an irreproachable character during the numerous public Trials of his time. Having incurred the King's displeasure, by conscientiously pronouncing the Petition of the Seven Bishops not to be a seditious libel, he forfeited his judicial post on 4 July 1688, and passed the remainder of his life in retirement at Oxford, where he was buried.

He was a Fellow of New College, and was the Official and Registrar of the Archdeacon of Berks. In 1695 he drew the Will of Anthony Wood, the Historian.

REIGN OF ANNE.

1702–14.

Sir John Holt, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, 1689.

The name of Holt is alike an honour to the Judicature of the Kingdom, and to the County of which he was a native.

(a) Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors.

He

He was born at Thame on 30 December 1642, and, after receiving his education at Abingdon School, he became a member of Oriel College, Oxford, but left the University without becoming a Graduate. He was conspicuously engaged in the State Trials with which the Courts were occupied during the two preceding Reigns, and he was selected to advise the Lords of the Council on many important matters of that unsettled age. His profound knowledge as a Lawyer, and his pre-eminent talent as an Advocate were rewarded by promotion to the degree of the Coif, and the King's Sergeantcy, and by the honor of Knighthood. On 17 April 1689 he was chosen to preside over the Court of King's Bench, and, for the period of 21 years in which Sir John Holt was Chief Justice, "the administration of justice was distinguished by learning, sagacity, and integrity, and freed from the suspicion of private bias or courtly dictation," in happy contrast to the experience of the preceding Reigns. An amusing anecdote is told, having reference to the youthful extravagancies of Sir John Holt. It is quoted in Mr. Foss' words. "In a trial of an old woman for witchcraft, the Witness against her declared that she used a 'spell.' 'Let me see it,' said the Judge. A scrap of parchment being handed to him, he asked the old woman how she came by it, and on her answering, 'A young Gentleman, my Lord, gave it to me to cure my Daughter's ague,' inquired whether it cured her. 'Oh! yes, my Lord, and many others,' replied the old woman. He then turned to the Jury and said, 'Gentlemen, when I was young and thoughtless, and out of money, I, and some Companions as unthinking as myself, went to this woman's House, then a Public one, and, having no money to pay our reckoning, I hit upon a stratagem to get off scot free. Seeing her daughter ill of an ague, I pretended I had a spell to cure her. I wrote the classic line you see, and gave it to her, so that if any one is punishable, it is I, and not the poor Woman.' It is needless to say that the Jury acquitted her." It is said that Sir John Holt lived for some time at Paradise House, Saint Ebbe's, Oxford. He died on 5 March 1709, during the celebrated Trial of Dr. Sacheverell.

John Scrope, Commissioner of the Great Seal, 1710.

The Son of Thomas Scrope of Wormsley in this County, (long since and now the Seat of the Fane Family, who acquired this Estate by intermarriage with a Scrope). He was a Baron

of

of the Exchequer in Scotland, but his judicial career in England was limited to the period of three weeks between 26 September and 19 October 1710, during which interval he had the custody of the Great Seal as Lord Commissioner. His death took place in April 1752.

REIGN OF GEORGE THE FIRST.

1714-27.

SIMON, EARL HARCOURT, Lord Chancellor, 1714.

Since the twelfth century the ancient and illustrious Family of Harcourt have flourished at Stanton Harcourt in this County. The Father of the subject of this notice was Sir Philip Harcourt, who married the daughter of the General of the Parliamentary forces, Sir William Waller. His son, the future Lord Chancellor, was born 1660, and, having received his education at Pembroke College, Oxford, he proceeded to the legal culture of the Inner Temple. His progress at the Bar was rapid, and he soon became distinguished in Parliament, and most prominently so on the occasion of the impeachment of Lord Somers. Directly after the Accession of Queen Anne, Harcourt was appointed Solicitor General, and was selected to accompany the Queen on Her visit to Oxford in August 1702. After an interval of five years he was made Attorney General, and, being then unseated for Abingdon, he immortalised himself by his able and eloquent defence of Dr. Sacheverell at the Bar of the House of Lords. On the 19 October 1710 Queen Anne entrusted him with the Great Seal, and he was styled Lord Keeper. A year elapsed before he was raised to the Peerage, and in rather more than another year he was styled Lord Chancellor, by the Queen. George the First also conferred that honour on him, but did not allow him to enjoy it long. After Lord Harcourt was deprived of the Seal (21 September 1714), he principally devoted himself to literary pursuits, and in the latter part of his life gave much encouragement to POPE, whom he placed in the old family residence at Stanton Harcourt to expedite the translation of the Iliad. The Nuneham Estate, the present Mansion and Residence of the Harcourt Family, was first purchased by the Chancellor.

Lord

Lord Harcourt died 28 July 1727, and his remains were interred in the Chapel at Stanton Harcourt "where twenty of Harcourts Barons bold lie buried." (a)

THOMAS PARKER, EARL OF MACCLESFIELD, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1710. Lord Chancellor, 1718.

Thomas Parker was born of an old Family in Staffordshire, but his purchase of Shirburn Castle and its Estate, in Oxfordshire, and his long residence there, and that of his Posterity, the successive Earls of Macclesfield, completely identify him with this County.

At the Bar he was most distinguished for the talented speeches he made, on behalf of the prosecution, upon the celebrated impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell. The honor of succeeding Sir John Holt as Chief Justice of the King's Bench was conferred upon him in March 1710, and he administered justice in that Court with laudable wisdom. In May 1718 Lord Macclesfield was appointed to preside over the Court of Chancery, with the custody of the Great Seal, as Lord Chancellor. For nearly seven years in that high position he displayed such great learning and

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(a) The Mansion at Cokethorpe Park (now the Seat of Walter Strickland Esquire), was built by Sir Simon Harcourt (afterwards Lord Chancellor Harcourt), in the Reign of Queen Anne; and Her Majesty presented his Lordship with the carved-oak decorations of the Dining Room, and visited the Chancellor at Cokethorpe after the House was finished.

This Estate was sold in 1755, to Maximilian Western Esquire, whose Daughter and Coheiress married Walter, brother of Sir William Strickland Baronet, of Boynton in Yorkshire.

It may be interesting, with respect to the Harcourt Family, to give the following quotation from the paper headed 'Testamentary Eccentricities' in Sir Bernard Burke's remodelled Edition of the VICISSITUDES OF FAMILIES.

"Another instance of the advantages of pedigree occurs in the will of WILLIAM, last EARL HARCOURT, who died in 1830. That nobleman was the lineal descendant and male representative of the great and historic house of Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt, founded in England in the 12th century by Ivo de Harcourt, brother of Robert d'Harcourt, Seigneur d'Harcourt in Normandy, ancestor of the Ducs d'Harcourt in France. The two lines, Harcourt of Normandy and Harcourt of England, thus became separated seven hundred years ago! Nevertheless when the last representative of the English branch, William, Earl Harcourt, was making his final testamentary arrangements, his thoughts turned to the source from which his lineage originally sprang, and he bequeathed to the French Marquis d'Harcourt and his heirs male, not only the beautifully situated estate of St. Leonard's Hill, overlooking regal Windsor, but also a sum of £80,000 to be laid out in land, to increase the property. His Lordship required however, that each inheritor should not be absent from England more than six months at one time, unless engaged in the civil or military service of Great Britain."

ability

ability as have earned him the reputation of ranking as one of our greatest Equity Judges. Upon resigning the Great Seal, Lord Macclesfield retired to Shirburn Castle, where he principally devoted himself to superintending the education of his Son, the second Earl, who subsequently became famous as a Mathematician and Astronomer, and the Author of the alteration in the Calendar, and whose scientific acquirements were recognised by his appointment as President of the Royal Society. The Chancellor died at his London residence on 28 April 1732, and was buried at Shirburn.

REIGN OF GEORGE THE SECOND.

1727–60.

Sir Francis Page, Baron of the Exchequer, 1718. Justice of the King's Bench, 1727.

In 1661 the Wife of the Rev. Nicholas Page, the Vicar of Bloxham in this County, gave birth to this unpopular Judge, who was stigmatised during his judicial life as "the hanging Judge," and who has left behind him a reputation which none can envy. Pope has thus characterized him:

> Slander or poison dread from Delia's rage,
> Hard words or hanging, if your Judge be Page.

Soon after Page was made a Serjeant and knighted, he obtained a Seat on the Bench as Baron of the Exchequer in May 1718, whence he was removed to the Common Pleas, and again to the King's Bench, in 1727, where he sat until his death on 31 October 1741, having exercised judicial functions for the long period of twenty-three years. He lived at the Mansion which he built on his Estate at Steeple Aston, in Oxfordshire, and, in testimony of his pride and ostentation, Biographers record that he erected in Steeple Aston Church, during his life, the present monumental Structure containing full-length figures of himself and his second wife, the daughter of Sir Thomas Wheate of Glympton, under which Monument the Judge was buried.

REIGN OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

1760–1820.

Sir William Henry Ashhurst, Justice of the King's Bench, 1770.

That the Family of Ashhurst has been long established at their Seat at Waterstock is too well known to need any comment here. Sir William Henry, who was destined for the Bench, was born on 25 January 1725, being the Son of Thomas Henry Ashhurst, Vice Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Recorder of Wigan, and his Wife Diana, the daughter of Sir Richard Allin, Baronet, whose Father in law was Sir Henry Ashhurst, Baronet. For the honorable period of twenty-nine years since his appointment, in succession to Sir William Blackstone, on 25 June 1770, Sir William Henry Ashhurst sat as a Judge of the King's Bench "preserving the character," to quote from a learned Biographer, "of an impartial Administrator of Justice, and a careful expounder of the Law, united with a benevolent heart and polished manners." The following couplet, reputed to be the composition of Lord Erskine, conveys a compliment which those who have studied his judgments and his portrait will appreciate:

> "Judge Ashhurst with his *lanthorn* jaws,
> Throws *light* upon our English laws."

The following description also, is given of him by a learned Contemporary. "Mr. Justice Ashhurst is a Man of liberal education and enlarged notions. His language has no peculiar neatness or brilliancy, but it is perspicuous, pointed, and clear. He reasons logically, and knows well how to winnow the chaff of eloquence from argument and Law." (*Lives of eminent Lawyers*, 1790.)

Sir William was twice one of the Commissioners of the Great Seal.

He passed the last eight years of his life in retirement at Waterstock, where he died on 5 November 1807, and where his Grandson, John Henry Ashhurst Esquire, now resides.

Sir George Nares, Judge of the Common Pleas, 1771–1786.

He was the younger Son of Mr. Nares of Oxford, who was many years Steward to the second and third Earls of Abingdon.

Sir

Sir George Nares was educated at Oxford, and called to the Bar in 1741, and in 1746 was appointed Town Clerk of Oxford, an Office which he held for ten years. He married Mary, Daughter of Sir John Strange, Master of the Rolls. "His professional merit must have been very conspicuous, inasmuch as in 1759 he received the degree of the Coif, and was made King's Sergeant at the same time." (*Foss, Vol.* 8, *p.* 348.) In May 1768 he was elected Member of Parliament for the City of Oxford, and afterwards appointed its Recorder. His Election as M.P. was in conjunction with the Honorable William (afterwards Earl) Harcourt. And the unsuccessful Candidates on the occasion were the Honorable William (afterwards Earl) Craven, and Sir James Cotter, Baronet. His elevation to the Judicial Bench vacated Sir George Nares' Seat for Oxford, and he resigned the Recordership. He was succeeded in the former by Lord Robert Spencer, and in the latter by the Honorable Thomas Wenman. Sir George died in 1786, and was buried at Eversley, in Hampshire, where he had a Seat. One of his Sons (the Reverend Edward Nares, D.D.), was a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, Regius Professor of Modern History, and the Author of several valuable and standard Works.

Sir John Skynner, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1777.

This Chief Baron was born in 1723, and was the Son of John Skynner of Great Milton in this County, who lived on an Estate which he had acquired by marriage from his Wife Elizabeth. He attained the silk gown of a King's Counsel in 1771, being then the Member of Parliament for Woodstock. In November 1777 he was appointed to preside over the Court of Exchequer, and his administration of justice as Chief Baron was, during a period of nine years, characterized with great ability. He died at Great Milton in November 1805, and was buried there with his Wife, Martha Davie, who predeceased him.

REIGN OF WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

1830–37.

Sir William Elias Taunton, Justice of King's Bench, 1830.

This Judge was born at Oxford in 1773, where his Father, who bore the same names, held the Offices of Clerk of the Peace

of

of the County, and Town Clerk of the City of Oxford. Having been educated at Westminster, he graduated with distinction at Christ Church, Oxford, and then became conspicuous as a learned and eloquent Lawyer. He succeeded Mr. Abbot (afterwards Lord Colchester), in the post of Recorder of Oxford, and was soon promoted to the rank of King's Counsel. On 12 November 1830 he was dignified with a Judicial seat in the Court of King's Bench, where he fulfilled the functions of an upright and learned Judge until his sudden death on 11 January 1835.

REIGN OF VICTORIA

Since 1837.

Sir Gillery Pigott, Baron of Exchequer, 1863.

Sir Gillery Pigott is the last but one of the Judges who now can be claimed as an Oxfordshire, or rather *quasi* Oxfordshire Man. He was the Son of Paynton Pigott Esquire of Archer Lodge, Sherfield, Hants, and of Banbury, Oxfordshire, (who afterwards assumed the additional Names of Stainsby Conant), and of Lucy the Daughter of Richard Drope Gough Esquire of Souldern in this County; and Sir Gillery passed much of his early life in Oxfordshire. He acquired a large practice as a Barrister on the Oxford Circuit, commending himself to every one by his amenity and learning, and in 1856 he was appointed a Serjeant at Law, with a Patent of precedence. And in 1859 he was appointed Recorder of Hereford. In 1860 he was returned a Member of Parliament for Reading, and in October 1863 Sir Gillery Pigott was raised to the Bench of the Court of Exchequer, and he holds, with becoming honour, the exalted position of a Baron of that Court.

The Right Honorable Sir Robert Joseph Phillimore, Judge of the Arches Court, and Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, since 1867.

He is the second Son of the late Joseph Phillimore Esquire D.C.L. of Shiplake House, Oxfordshire, an eminent Civilian, and late Regius Professor of Civil Law in the University of Oxford. Sir Robert was educated at Westminster, and Christ Church, Oxford. He was admitted a D.C.L. in 1839; represented

Tavistock

Tavistock in Parliament from 1853 to 1857; was for many years (in succession to his Father), Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford); was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel in 1858; Queen's Advocate in 1862; and in 1867 Sir Robert became JUDGE OF THE ARCHES COURT, and JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY. He sustains these high, judicial Seats by his great classical attainments; by his pre-eminence as a Civil, and Ecclesiastical Lawyer; and by his Erudition in International Law. The patrimonial Estate at Shiplake descended to Sir Robert's Nephew, a Minor; but Sir Robert has acquired an Estate in the same Parish, and passes his Vacations there,—the House being known as 'The Coppice.'

THE

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

FOR THE

COUNTY.

THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY.

(a)

PARLIAMENT is derived from the French word *parler* to speak. It is the supreme Legislative Assembly of Great Britain and Ireland. Great Councils of the Nation existed in England under the Saxons and Normans. They were called by the Saxons *Michel-synoth*, or great Council; *Michel-gemote* or great Meeting; and *Witena-gemote*, Meeting of wise Men.

The constitution of Parliament, as it is now formed, was marked out as long ago as the 17th year of King John (A.D. 1215), in the Great Charter, wherein He promised to summon all Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, and greater Barons personally, and all other Tenants in chief under the Crown; and Writs were issued to the Sheriffs commanding them to return four Knights for each County *ad loquendum cum Rege de negotio Regni*,—at Oxford.

The Lords and Commons were originally one Assembly, but the date of their separation is not known.

On the 24th of January 1258 (42nd Henry the 3rd), appeared the first rude outline of the present House of Commons. Again in 1265 two Knights from every Shire, and one or two Burgesses from every Borough Town, were summoned to assemble in Parliament at Westminster, in addition to the Barons and Clergy.

(a) The Compiler desires to acknowledge the courtesy of the Gentlemen at the Crown Office, House of Lords, who permitted an examination of the Sheriffs' Returns from the earliest date extant in that office—the first year of Queen Mary.

The antecedent Names (with the hiatus explained *postea*) were obtained, after much research, at the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, where the wonted urbanity of the Gentlemen of that Institution was displayed.

The

The Constitutional Law of the Country, whatever it may have been in practice, was first pronounced by the Statute 15th Edward 2nd. In this Act the Legislative Authority was declared to reside in the King, with the assent of the Prelates, Earls, Barons, and Commons assembled in Parliament; and from that time the real existence of that Body, and of the form of Government still subsisting, has been uninterrupted, excepting only during the period of the Commonwealth.

EDWARD THE FIRST.

ANNO.

1297. William de Scalebrok.
Henry de Bruly.

1299. John de Elsfeld.
John de Pratellis.

1301. John de Elsfeld.
Robert Pegars.

1304. Roger de Borfeld.

1305. William de Scalebrok.

1306. John de Hinton.
William de Scalebrok.

EDWARD THE SECOND.

1307. William de Scalebrok.
John de Hinton.

1308. John de Elsfeld.
William de Scalebrok.

1309. Robert de Arderne.
John de Chaumpaigne.

1310. William de Scalebrok.
John de Elsfeld.

ANNO.

1311. William de Scalebrok.
John de Elsfeld.

1312. John Bardolf.
John le Mirie.

1313. John Bardolf.
Radolphus de Chastillon.

1314. Richard de Bere.
Thomas Golafre.

1315. John de Croxford.
John de Chaumpaigne.

1316. John de Croxford.
Richard de la Bere.

1318. John de Bloxham.
Thomas Blaket.

1320. Roger de Nowers.
John de Croxford.

1321. John de Bloxham.
Robert de Trillawe.

1322. John de Harcourt.
John de la Pole.

1323. Gilbert de Elsfeld.
William de Mareschall, of Crowmarsh.

1324. Richard de Bere.
John de Croxford.

1325. John de Croxford.
Richard de la Bere.

EDWARD THE THIRD.

1326. Roger de Nowers.
John de Whitefeld.

ANNO.

1327. Roger de Nouwers.
James de Woodstock.

1328. John de Brumpton.
William de Mareschall, of Crowmarsh.

1329. William de Legh.
Robert de Moreby.

1330. Roger de Nowers.
John de Whitefeld.

1331. Richard de Williamscot.
John de Lewknor.

1332. James de Woodstock.
Hugo de Berwicks.

1333. John Golafre.
James de Woodstock.

1334. Thomas de Langley.
John de Alveton.

1335. Thomas de Langley.
John de Alveton.

1336. John de Alveton.
Richard de Williamscot.

1337. John de Alveton.
Thomas de Langley.

" John de Lewknor.
Thomas Attemore.

1338. Thomas Attemore.
John de Alveton.

" John de Croxford.
Adam de la Fenne.

1339. Richard de Hattecombe.
Peyntour.

ANNO.	
1340.	John de Croxford. Richard de Burncester.
,,	Roger de Nowers. John de Croxford.
,,	John Golafre. Thomas de la Mere.
1341.	Richard de Beaufoe. John Frelond.
1342.	John de Lewknor. Thomas de la Mere.
1343.	Gilbert de Elsfeld. William de Mareschall.
1344.	Richard de Bere. John de Croxford.
1346.	Richard de Williamscot. John Laundele.
1347.	Richard de Williamscot. John Laundele.
1348.	Richard de Williamscot. Richard de Hattecombe.
1350.	Thomas de la Mere. Thomas de Langley.
1352.	John de Elsfeld.
1353.	Thomas de Langley.
1354.	John de Whitefeld.
1355.	Thomas de Langley. Adam de Shareshull.
1356.	John de Lewknor. Thomas de Langley.

ANNO.

1357. John Stadeley.
John Staffrideswida.

1358. John de Nowers.
Thomas de Langley.

1359. Roger de Burghfeld.
Egidius de Insula.

1360. Thomas de Langley.
Nicholas Poure.

1361. Roger de Elmerugg.
Nicholas Dammory.

1362. Roger de Elmerugg.
John de Powers.

1363. Roger de Elmerugg.
Roger de Cottisford.

1364. Roger de Elmerugg.
Nicholas Dammory.

1365. Nicholas Dammory.
John de Trillowe.

1367. Nicholas Dammory.
Roger de Elmerugg.

1368. Nicholas Dammory.
Roger de Elmerugg.

1369. Roger de Elmerugg.
Roger de Cottisford.

1370. Thomas de Broughton.

1372. Gilbert Wace.
Thomas de Broughton.

1373. Reginald de Malins.
Richard de Adderbury.

1375. Thomas Harcourt, Chevalier.
Rober Simeon.

ANNO.

1376. Gilbert Wace.
John James.

RICHARD THE SECOND.

1377. Reginald de Malins.
Robert Simeon.

1378. John Herle.
Robert Simeon.

1379. Reginald de Malyns, Chevalier.
Edmund de Stonor.

1380. John Herle.
Thomas Blount.

1381. Gilbert Wace.
Roger Cheyney.

1382. Gilbert Wace.
John Harwedon.

1383. Gilbert Wace.
John Harwedon.

1384. Gilbert Wace.
Edmund Giffard.

1385. Gilbert Wace.
Roger Cheyney.

1386. Gilbert Wace.
William Willicotes.

1387. Richard Adderbury, } Chevaliers.
Gilbert Wace, }

1388. Thomas Barentyne.
William Willicotes.

1389. Thomas de la Poyle.
Thomas Barentyne.

ANNO.

1390. William Willicotes.
John Rede.

1392. William Willicotes.
John Adderbury.

1393. William Willicotes.
William Bruly.

1395. Thomas Barentyne.
John Adderbury.

1396. William Willicotes.
John Golafre.

HENRY THE FOURTH.

1399. Thomas Barentyne Esquire.
John Wilcotes Esquire.

1400. John Wilcotes Esquire.
Thomas Chaucer Esquire.

1401. Thomas Chaucer Esquire.
John Arches Esquire.

1402. Thomas Chaucer Esquire.
Thomas Wykham Esquire.

1403. William Makheny Esquire.
Peter Besselles Esquire.

1404. John Droyton, Chevalier.
John Willicotes Esquire.

1406. Thomas Chaucer, Chevalier.
John Willicotes Esquire.

1407. Thomas Chaucer, Chevalier.
John Willicotes Esquire.

1408. Thomas Chaucer Esquire, Speaker.

1409. Thomas Chaucer Esquire, Speaker.

HENRY THE FIFTH.

ANNO.

1412. Thomas Chaucer Esquire, Speaker.
William Willicotes Esquire.

1413. William Lile Esquire.
John Willicotes Esquire.

1414. Thomas Wykham, Chevalier.
Thomas Stonor Esquire.

1415. Thomas Chaucer Esquire, Speaker.

1416. William Hole Esquire.
John Willicotes Esquire.

1419. John Danvers Esquire.
Richard Grevill Esquire.

1420. John Dammeris Esquire.
Peter Fettiplace Esquire.

HENRY THE SIXTH.

1422. Thomas Wykham, Chevalier.
Thomas Chaucer Esquire.

1423. Peter Fettiplace Esquire.
John Dammeris Esquire.

1424. Thomas Wykham, Chevalier.
Thomas Stonor Esquire.

1426. Thomas Chaucer Esquire.
Thomas Stonor Esquire.

1428. Thomas Chaucer Esquire.
Thomas Stonor Esquire.

1434. Peter Fettiplace Esquire.
John Danvers Esquire.

1441. John Norreys Esquire.
William Wykham Esquire.

ANNO.

1446. Robert Harcourt Esquire.
Thomas Stonor Esquire.

1448. Sir Edmund Hampden, Knight.
Sir John Pury, Knight.

1449. Sir Edmund Hampden, Knight.
Thomas Stonor Esquire.

1450. Sir Robert Harcourt, Knight.
Edward Rede Esquire.

1459. Sir Richard Harcourt, Knight.
John Stokes Esquire.

EDWARD THE FOURTH.

1466. Humphrey Foster Esquire.
John Barentyne Esquire.

1472. Richard Quartermayn Esquire.
Richard Croft Esquire.

HENRY THE EIGHTH.

1542. Sir John Williams, Knight.
Edward Bridges Esquire.
(a)

EDWARD THE SIXTH.

1547. Sir John Williams, Knight.
Richard Fiennes Esquire.

(a) The hiatus in the Names (with some exceptions), between 1450 and 1542 is irreparable; the Writs, Returns, and Indentures for this interval, of all the Counties in England, having been lost. The interval includes (with the above exceptions), the eleven last years of Henry the Sixth, the Reigns of Edward the Fourth, Richard the Third, Henry the Seventh, and Henry the Eighth's Reign excepting the four last years.

ANNO.

1552. Arthur Dudley Esquire.
Sir John Williams, Knight.

QUEEN MARY.

1553. Sir John Williams, Knight.
John Pollard Esquire, Speaker.

1554. Sir Leonard Chamberlain, Knight.
John Pollard Esquire, Speaker.

PHILIP AND MARY.

1554. Sir Leonard Chamberlain, Knight.
John Pollard Esquire, Speaker.

1555. Sir Thomas Wenman, Knight.
Edmund Powell Esquire.

1557. George Owen Esquire.
Thomas Denton Esquire.

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

1558. Thomas Bridges Esquire.
Edmund Ashfeild Esquire.

1562. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight.
Sir Richard Blount, Knight.

1571. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight, Treasurer of the Household.
Sir Henry Norreys, Knight.

1572. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight.
Henry Knollys Esquire.

1585. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight.
William Knollys Esquire.

ANNO.

1586. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight.
Richard Fiennes Esquire.

1588. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight.
Sir John Norreys, Knight.

1592. Sir Francis Knollys, Knight.
Sir William Knollys, Knight.

1597. Sir William Knollys, Knight.
Sir William Wenman, Knight.

1601. Sir William Knollys, Knight.
Ralph Warcoppe Esquire.

JAMES THE FIRST.

1603. Laurence Tanfeild, Sergeant at Law.
John D'Oyly Esquire.

1614. Sir Anthony Cope, Baronet.

1620. Sir Richard Wenman, Knight.
Sir William Cope, Knight.

1623. Sir William Cope, Baronet.
Sir Henry Pool, Knight.

CHARLES THE FIRST.

1625. Edward Wray Esquire.[a]
Sir Richard Wenman, Knight.

1626. James Fiennes Esquire.
Sir Thomas Wenman, Knight.

1628. James Fiennes Esquire.
Sir Francis Wenman, Knight.

(a) Had been Groom of the Bedchamber to James the First. Was Grandfather of James, Lord Norreys, first Earl of Abingdon.

ANNO.

1640. James Fiennes Esquire.
Sir Francis Wenman, Knight.

1640.—1653. (The Long Parliament).
Thomas, Viscount Wenman.
James Fiennes Esquire.

1653. (The little Parliament summoned by the Protector, Oliver Cromwell).
Sir Charles Worsley, Knight.
William Draper Esquire.
Dr. Jonathan Goddard.

1654. (Commonwealth).
Robert Jenkinson Esquire.
Charles Fleetwood Esquire, Lieutenant General of Ireland.
Colonel James Whitelock.
Nathaniel Fiennes Esquire.
William Lenthall Esquire, Speaker.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.

1656. Charles Fleetwood Esquire, Lord Deputy of Ireland.
William Lenthall Esquire, Master of the Rolls, Speaker.
Robert Jenkinson Esquire.
Miles Fleetwood Esquire.
Sir Francis Norreys, Knight.

1658. Robert Jenkinson Esquire.
Sir Francis Norreys, Knight.
Henry Cary Esquire.
Viscount Faulkland.

The Parliament, begun 3rd November 1640, continued sitting till 20th April 1653, when it was dissolved. But, notwithstanding this dissolution,—and the summoning of no less than four Parliaments by the Usurping Powers,—this Parliament of 1640 was

regarded

regarded as the legitimate one; for, in the Commons Journal is this entry. "16 March 1659. A Bill of the dissolution of the Parliament begun at Westminster 3 November 1640, and for calling another Parliament 25 April 1660."

CHARLES THE SECOND.

ANNO.

1660. Viscount Wenman.
Sir Thomas Wenman, Knight.

1671. Sir Anthony Cope, Baronet.
Sir Francis Wenman, Knight.

1679. Sir John Cope, Baronet.
Sir Edward Norreys, Knight.

This Election was contested by Sir John D'Oyley and John Clerke Esquire.

1681. Sir Philip Harcourt, Knight.
Thomas Horde Esquire.

This Election was contested by Sir John Cope and Sir Edward Norreys.

JAMES THE SECOND.

1688. (The Convention Parliament).
Sir John Cope, Baronet.
Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.

WILLIAM THE THIRD.

1689. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Sir John Cope, Baronet.
Montagu, Lord Norreys.
Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.

1695. Montagu, Lord Norreys.
Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.

ANNO.

1698. Montagu, Lord Norreys.
Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.

1699. Sir Robert Dashwood, Baronet.
Vice Lord Norreys, called to the House of Lords as Earl of Abingdon.

1700. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Sir Edward Norreys, Knight.

QUEEN ANNE.

1701. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Sir Edward Norreys, Knight.

1702. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Sir Edward Norreys, Knight.

1705. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Sir Edward Norreys, Knight.

1708. Francis Viscount Rialton (afterwards Earl of Godolphin).
Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.

1709. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Vice Sir Robert deceased.

1710. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Francis Clerke Esquire.

1713. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Francis Clerke Esquire.

GEORGE THE FIRST.

1714. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
Francis Clerke, Esquire.

1717. Sir Robert Jenkinson, Baronet.
James Herbert Esquire.

ANNO.

1722. Sir Robert Banks Jenkinson, Baronet.(a)
Henry Perrott Esquire.

GEORGE THE SECOND.

1727. Sir William Stapleton, Baronet.
Henry Perrott Esquire.

1734. Sir William Stapleton, Baronet.
Henry Perrott Esquire.

1741. George Henry Viscount Quarrendon.
Sir James Dashwood, Baronet.

1747. Sir James Dashwood, Baronet.
Norreys Bertie Esquire.

1754. Thomas, Viscount Parker.
Sir Edward Turner, Baronet.

This Election was contested by Philip, Viscount Wenman, and Sir James Dashwood, Baronet; and, so strenuous was the Contest, that the Sick, and almost Dying, were carried to the Poll.

This Election is memorable as the last great Contest between the Whig and Tory factions, and which first brought the famous Mr. Charles Jenkinson, (who afterwards became Earl of Liverpool), into Court favour and public notice, and procured him (by the introduction of him by Lord Harcourt to George the Third), at first the humble situation of a Clerk in the Treasury, from whence he rose by a regular gradation in 1762 to be Private Secretary to Lord Bute; in 1763 to be Secretary to the Treasury in the administration of Mr. George Grenville, Grandfather to the Marquis of Buckingham; in 1766 a Lord of the Admiralty under the administration of the Duke of Grafton; in 1767 a Lord of the Treasury under the same Nobleman; in 1778 Secretary at War under Lord North; in 1786 created Lord Hawkesbury, and made Chancellor of

(a) He married Catherine, third Daughter of Sir Thomas Dashwood, Baronet.

the

the Duchy of Lancaster by Mr. Pitt; in 1790 first Lord of Trade and Plantations under the same Minister; in 1796 Earl of Liverpool; besides holding for many years the valuable Office of Collector of the Customs in the Port of London; and he at last retired from Office with the addition of an enormous pension for life. All this accumulation of wealth, fortune, and favouritism originated in his being what is commonly called 'Squib Writer' to the Court Candidates at this memorable Election.

Lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner were the Whig Candidates, supported by the Duke of Marlborough, the Earl of Guilford, Earl Harcourt, and the Earl of Macclesfield, and by the Administration of that day, the Whigs being then in place; and it was Lord Parker who first introduced Mr. Jenkinson to the Duke of Newcastle, at that time Minister, and procured for him his Grace's patronage.

Lord Wenman and Sir James Dashwood were supported by the Tory and Opposition interest, and by the Earl of Abingdon, and the Earl of Lichfield; and, after a most violent and expensive contest, this Election ended in a double Return of all four Candidates; and on the 23rd of April 1755, the House of Commons declared Lord Wenman and Sir James Dashwood not duly elected, but that Lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner were duly elected, and ought to have been returned.

Lord Wenman and Sir James Dashwood were in what was called the *old interest*, distinguished as the *Blues:* and Lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner in *the new interest*, or *Yellows*.

The Mob that espoused the new interest were, on some occasions, most tumultuous and indecent. Among other enormities they got into one of the Churches in Oxford, and, mounting the Pulpit, drank damnation to the last blue Parson that preached in that blue Pulpit.

Many other strange incidents of this Election might be recorded. Some are given in Notes to the Compiler's List of the "Lords Lieutenant and High Sheriffs of Oxfordshire," of which the present little Work is intended as a handmaid. Suffice it to add one

anecdote

anecdote only, here. A Mrs. W. being jealous of the attentions of her Husband to their Servant Maid, put poison into one side of a Pudding which was to come to Table, and marked the side, intending to apportion it for the Servant's Dinner. In carving however, Mrs. W. mistook the mark, and helped her Husband to the fatal quarter of the pudding. He ate it, and speedily died. For this she was tried, and condemned to death, and, at the time of the Election, was in Gaol awaiting her Execution. The Family commanded six Votes, in respect of Property in what is now Summer Town, near Oxford. They waited on each Candidate offering their votes to whichever could obtain the respite of the Convict; and they succeeded in their object through the medium of a Peer in the County then very powerful with the Government.

GEORGE THE THIRD.

ANNO.

1761. Lord Charles Spencer.
Sir James Dashwood, Baronet.

1768. Lord Charles Spencer.
Philip, Viscount Wenman.

1774. Lord Charles Spencer.
Philip, Viscount Wenman.

1779. Lord Charles Spencer re-elected, upon being appointed Treasurer of the King's Chamber.

1780. Lord Charles Spencer.
Philip, Viscount Wenman.

1782. Lord Charles Spencer re-elected, upon being appointed Vice-Treasurer, Receiver General, and Paymaster General of Ireland.

1784. Lord Charles Spencer.
Philip, Viscount Wenman.

ANNO.

1790. George Spencer, Marquess of Blandford.(a)
Philip, Viscount Wenman.

1796. Lord Charles Spencer.
John Fane Esquire.

1801. Lord Francis Almeric Spencer.
Vice Lord Charles Spencer, appointed Postmaster General.

1802. Lord Francis Almeric Spencer.
John Fane Esquire.

1806. Lord Francis Almeric Spencer.
John Fane Esquire.

1807. Lord Francis Almeric Spencer.
John Fane Esquire.

1812. Lord Francis Almeric Spencer.
John Fane Esquire.

1815. William Henry Ashhurst Esquire.
Vice Lord Francis Almeric Spencer, elevated to the Peerage as Baron Churchill.

1818. John Fane Esquire.
William Henry Ashhurst Esquire.

GEORGE THE FOURTH.

1820. John Fane Esquire.
William Henry Ashhurst Esquire.

1824. John Fane Esquire.
Vice his Father (John Fane Esquire) deceased, who had represented the County in eight successive Parliaments.

(a) Afterwards 3rd Duke of Marlborough. In 1806 he was called up, by Writ, to the House of Peers and placed in his Father's Barony of Spencer.

ANNO.

1826. William Henry Ashhurst Esquire.
John Fane Esquire.

This Election was contested by George Frederick Stratton Esquire.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

1830. John Fane Esquire.
Montague Bertie, Lord Norreys.

This Election was contested by Sir George Dashwood, Baronet.

1831. George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Major Richard Weyland.

This Election was contested by Lord Norreys.

1832. George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Major Richard Weyland.
Montague Bertie, Lord Norreys.

This was the first Election after the Reform Act (2nd William 4th chapter 45), which added a third Member to the County.

1835. George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Major Richard Weyland.
Montague Bertie, Lord Norreys.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

1837. Montague Bertie, Lord Norreys.
George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Thomas Augustus Wolstenholme Parker Esquire, (afterwards Viscount Parker, and now Earl of Macclesfield).

This Election was contested by Thomas Stonor Esquire (now Lord Camoys).

ANNO.

1841. Montague Bertie, Lord Norreys.
George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Joseph Warner Henley Esquire.

1847. Montague Bertie, Lord Norreys.
George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Joseph Warner Henley Esquire.

1852. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley re-elected, on being appointed President of the Board of Trade.

1852. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley.
Lieutenant Colonel John Sidney North.
George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
This Election was contested by Lord Norreys.

1857. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley.
George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Lieutenant Colonel John Sidney North.

1858. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley re-elected, on being again appointed President of the Board of Trade.

1859. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley.
George Granville Harcourt Esquire.
Lieutenant Colonel John Sidney North.

1862. Lieutenant Colonel John William Fane.
Vice George Granville Harcourt Esquire deceased.
This Election was contested by Sir Henry William Dashwood, Baronet.

1865. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley.
Lieutenant Colonel John Sidney North.
Lieutenant Colonel John William Fane.

1868. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley.
Lieutenant Colonel John Sidney North.
William Cornwallis Cartwright Esquire.
This was the first Election after the second Reform Act (the 30th and 31st Victoria, chapter 102), which opens an era pregnant with great events.

THE

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CHAIRMEN OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

THE

CHAIRMEN OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

The Justices are descended from the ancient Conservators of the Peace.

The term "Sessions of the Peace" is used to designate a Sitting of Justices of the Peace for the execution of those powers which are confided to them by the Sovereign's Commission of the Peace under the great Seal, and by numerous Statutes. The Quarter Sessions is a Court of Record. The Chairman is the chosen President of the Court, and guides it in its deliberations; though, upon a division of opinion in any case, and an equality of votes, the Chairman has no casting vote;—for, *Inter Pares non est potestas*. The Office of Chairman of Quarter Sessions is a highly honorable one, and in every County confers distinction upon its holder.

The Muniments of the County of Oxford (in the Office of the Clerk of the Peace), from which the names of the Chairmen might have been collected,—commence only with the date of 1687. It is conjectured that the earlier Documents were destroyed, or otherwise miscarried, at the Revolution.

There appears to have been no permanently appointed Chairman prior to 1771. During the preceding Century and a half, the duties of the chair were exercised principally, (in chronological order), by Bulstrode Whitelock[a] Esquire, of Fawley Court,

(a) Aikin's Memoirs of the Court of Charles the First, Vol. 1 p. 373.

The following is Mr. Whitelock's own account of his introduction to the Chair.

"1635. At the Quarter Sessions at Oxford I was put into the Chair in Court, though I was in coloured Clothes, a sword by my side, and a falling band, which was unusual for Lawyers in those days; and in this garb I gave the Charge to the Grand Jury. I took occasion in this place to enlarge myself upon the point of jurisdiction of the temporal

a Member

(a Member of Saint John's College and an eminent Barrister on the Oxford Circuit), William Pudsey Esquire, Richard Powell Esquire, Thomas Carter Esquire (for a long period), William Wright Esquire, Sir Sebastian Smythe, Richard Carter Esquire, Henry Beeston Esquire, Charles Crispe Esquire, John Wright Esquire, John Lenthall Esquire, The Reverend Thomas Pardo D.D., Thomas Blackall Esquire, and the Reverend Theophilus Leigh D.D. The appointed place for holding the Quarter Sessions (after the destruction of the ancient County Hall, which stood on a site contiguous to the present one), was, up to 1751, the old Town Hall, a small Building in Saint Aldate's Street, Oxford. But the Records show that during parts of the 17th and 18th Centuries Adjournments of the Court of Quarter Sessions were made variously (amongst other places), to Sir John Walter's House at Sarsden; the Cross Inn in Oxford; the George Inn at Burford; the White Hart, Chipping Norton; the Bowling Green House at Bicester; and the Salutation at Witney. In 1751 the present Town Hall in Oxford was built; and the City courteously allowed the use of it for the Assizes and Quarter Sessions of the County until 1841, when the present County Hall was erected.

"Courts in matters Ecclesiastical, and the antiquity thereof; which I did the rather, because the Spiritual Men began in those days to swell higher than ordinary, and to take it as an injury to the Church that any thing savouring of the Spirituality should be within the cognizance of ignorant laymen; yet I was wary in my expressions, and so couched the matter as it might seem naturally to arise from the subject of the discourse, and not to be brought in purposely, and by head and shoulders. The Gentlemen and Freeholders seemed well pleased with my Charge, and management of the business of the Sessions, and said that they perceived that one might speak as good sense in a falling band as in a ruff, and they treated me at that time, and at all times afterwards when I waited on them, with extraordinary respect and civility."—*Whitelock's Memorials, Oxford Edition.*

Lord Campbell (Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. 3 p. 20), writes—"Whitelock passed his Vacations in Oxfordshire, affecting while there merely to be a Country Squire; yet, from his knowledge of the Law, he was called upon to preside as Chairman of the Justices."

In January 1643 Whitelock was named one of the Commissioners to carry propositions of peace to the King at Oxford. At an Inn there, some of the Officers of the Royal Army having quarrelled with the Commissioners' Servants, Whitelock "collared a great Mastiff Officer, and took his sword from him."—*Lord Campbell.*

In 1648 Whitelock was appointed one of the three Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal.

CHAIRMEN.

1771.—77. Francis Burton Esquire.

Educated at Christ Church, Oxford.

1778.–1808. Sir Christopher Willoughby, Baronet.

D.C.L. of the University of Oxford; and created a Baronet in 1794.

William Vanderstegen Esquire was Assistant Chairman, and took an active part in the County business, up to 1797, the year in which he died. He was educated at St. John's College, Oxford, and was a distinguished Member of the University.

1808.—18. John Coker Esquire.

Educated at New College, Oxford, of which Society he was a Fellow. And he was a D.C.L. of the University.

1819.—22. John Atkyns Wright Esquire.

Educated at Exeter College, Oxford, and called to the Bar. D.C.L. of the University of Oxford.

1822.—46. William Henry Ashhurst Esquire.

Educated at Charter House, and Worcester College, Oxford. D.C.L. of the University.

1846.—63. The Right Honorable Joseph Warner Henley.

Educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. D.C.L. of the University.

Since 1864. Hugh Hamersley Esquire.

Educated at Harrow, and Trinity College, Cambridge.

And with him is associated, as Vice-Chairman, Charles Edward Thornhill Esquire, a learned Barrister, educated at Rugby, and Christ Church, Oxford, and afterwards of Lincoln's Inn.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

The County Courts (instituted in 1846, under the Statute 9th and 10th Victoria chapter 95), are Tribunals intended not only to bring Justice to every Man's door, but to supply the place of the *Schyremote*, or ancient County Court, and of a great variety of inferior Courts in different Localities; such as Courts of Request, Courts of Conscience, &c. The County Courts are essentially *local* Courts; and the Legislature has, from time to time, wisely extended their jurisdiction, so that the County Court embraces (in addition to Suits for debts), Bankruptcy cases, certain Testamentary matters, regulations of Charities, and Suits in Equity. And, the Courts being presided over by learned Men of long experience and eminence at the Bar,—command the entire respect and confidence of the Public.

The first and present respected Judge of the Oxford County Court is

John Billingsley Parry Esquire Q.C.

REVISING BARRISTERS.

REVISING BARRISTERS.

Previously to the Reform Act of 1832 (2nd William the 4th chapter 45), the Land Tax Assessments deposited with the Clerk of the Peace were the criteria of the right of Persons to vote at a County Election. Since that date the Qualifications have been expanded, but those Persons only are now entitled to vote whose Names are enrolled upon the annually compiled Register of Electors;—and the Lists of Names of which the Register is composed are scrutinised or revised by appointed Barristers (who make Circuits of the Counties), before the Register is formed. The Compiler was a Pupil in the Office of his Predecessor, the then Clerk of the Peace, at the time of the contested Election for Oxfordshire in June 1826, which occurred after an interval of 72 years from the preceding Contest; and the proceedings of that Election, as contrasted with those which now regulate this Ordeal,—will never be effaced from the Compiler's memory. All the Electors of the County who voted, were polled in Booths erected in Broad Street, Oxford;—and, at the back of these Booths was a larger one in which the High Sheriff sat judicially, with his Assessor (Mr. Serjeant Russell), to decide upon such *ex tempore* questions of right to vote as the Undersheriff and his Deputies in the outside Booths referred for the decision of the Court. The three Candidates were represented by Counsel—(the Honorable Robert George Cecil Fane,—afterwards a Commissioner in Bankruptcy),—Mr. Curwood, and Mr. William Whateley,—subsequently Queen's Counsel, and Leader of the Oxford Circuit;—and the alternations of grave and ludicrous questions,—eliciting, at one interval, learned arguments,—and, at another, the platitudes and wit of Whateley, the urbane and gentle speeches of Fane, and the stirring eloquence of Curwood,—presented a scene which, to look back upon, seems invested more with

the

the elements of romance, than mantled in the truth of history. That scene too, was varied one day by Mr. Curwood fainting, from the heat, and being carried out; and, each day, by personal bickerings, squabbles, and fighting within the very precincts of the Booths,—intensified as each day's polling was drawing to its close.

The Compiler vividly remembers one aged Voter being carried to the Poll at the Election in 1826, who had voted at the Election in 1754.

The following are the Names of the

REVISING BARRISTERS.

1833. Robert Philip Tyrwhitt Esquire.[a]
George Clive Esquire.

1834. Edwin Maddy Esquire.
Robert Bruce Chichester Esquire.

1835. Edwin Maddy Esquire.
Thomas Davies Esquire.

1836. Joseph Ferrard Esquire.
Thomas Denman Whatley Esquire.

1837. } (annually). Edward Gillam White Esquire.[b]
1838. } John George Phillimore Esquire.

1839. William Henry Stone Esquire.
Robert Bruce Chichester Esquire.

1840. Robert Bruce Chichester Esquire.
Charles Alexander Wood Esquire.

1841. } (annually). John William Smith Esquire.
1842. } William Frederick Beadon Esquire.

(a) Now the respected Police Magistrate at the Marlborough Street Court.

(b) Mr. White is a Native of Brightwell, Oxfordshire, of which Parish his Father (the Reverend Samuel White D.D.), was Rector from 1801 till 1841.

1843. 1850. (annually). Edward Gillam White Esquire.

1851. 1852. (annually). Arthur Edward Somerset Esquire.

1853. Henry John Hodgson Esquire.

1854. 1863. (annually). Edward Gillam White Esquire.

1864. 1867. (annually). Robert Bruce Chichester Esquire.

1868. Robert Bruce Chichester Esquire.
William Johnstoun Neale Esquire.

CLERKS OF THE PEACE.

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The Custos Rotulorum of the County appoints the Clerk of the Peace,—whose Office is a freehold one; held *ad vitam, aut culpam.* The original date of the Office is not known, but the first Commission of the Peace having been granted by Edward the Third (who began to reign in 1327), the Office is at least traced to that period under the present Title of "Clerk of the Peace;" and it is assumed by the old Writers that the Office existed by the same, or a similar title, under the ancient system of Conservators of the Peace. (See Lambard's Eirenarcha). In the Year Book 2 Henry 7 pl. 1. this Officer is denominated not only *Clericus Pacis*, but *Attornatus Domini Regis.*

All the learning on the Office of Clerk of the Peace may be found collected in the Judgments delivered in the Case of Harding v. Pollock (a Writ of Error to the House of Lords), 6 Bingham's Reports p. 25.

The Compiler has been unable to trace the Names of the Clerks of the Peace of Oxfordshire prior to the year 1684.

1684–91.	Richard Stevens Esquire.
1691–97.	Edward Prince Esquire.
1697–1716.	Richard Clerke Esquire.
1716–59.	William Diston Esquire.
1759–62.	Harry Harmood Esquire.
1763–67.	Edward Ryves Esquire.
1767–77.	Thomas Walker Esquire.
1777–81.	Paul Elers Esquire.
1781–1815.	Sir William Elias Taunton, Knight.
1815–31.	Thomas Henry Taunton Esquire.
From 1831.	John Marriott Davenport.

CORRECTIONS.

Page 9 Note (b) *dele* full stop at *sub*

Page 12 line 8 from bottom, for Britanniæ read Britannæ.

Page 14 line 12, for Neccromancer, read Necromancer.

Page 78 line 3 *dele*)

Page 86 last line. For Rober, read Robert.

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